Lacson's trusted aides face deportation

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2001 ★ 38 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 256 ₱15

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  NEWS / A2

Mama mia, Italian stallions fear signoras

ROME—Is the Italian stallion losing his sex drive?

A survey showed that Italian women are becoming more sexually aggressive.

In fact, so aggressive

MAMA/ A12

SUBUKAN NILA ANG PINOY!

Corpus promises 'surprise witnesses'

Ping won't confront accusers; opts to go to Basilan

By Carlito Pablo and Armand Nocum

SAYING he was ready to present "surprise witnesses," military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus said he was not at all intimidated by the prospect of facing Sen. Panfilo Lacson today when the controversial joint Senate hearing resumes. The encounter, however, may not take place, as Lacson decided at the last minute yesterday to join another Senate hearing, this time in Lamitan, Basilan.

"I just changed my mind," Lacson told the INQUIRER after the Senate adjourned at 5:30 p.m. yesterday. According to him, the move was borne out of a "party decision." *(See story on Page A2)*

Lacson said the minority bloc wanted to "preclude" suspicions that the "opposition is trying to gang up on Ador and Corpus."

Corpus said he was as prepared as ever to confront Lacson himself before the Senate because the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines has in its possession not only witnesses but also documentary evidence against

PING/ A13

"EVERYTHING is wonderful," President Macapagal enthuses after her meeting on Wednesday with Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah at his palace in Bandar Seri Begawan.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Lead Eaga, GMA urges Bolkiah

By Martin P. Marfil

BANDAR Seri Begawan (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday met with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah to seek his leading role in reviving a plan to create an economic zone made up of contiguous areas of the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Indonesia.

"Everything is wonderful, and I'm very, very grateful to his majesty for his invitation for a state visit," the President told Radio-TV Brunei after her 20-minute meeting with Bolkiah.

Few details were made available to the media on what the two leaders talked about at Bolkiah's palace—the Istana Nurul Iman.

Before her departure from Manila, however, she said the theme of her three-day visit to the oil-rich kingdom was "Brunei's leadership in the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area."

"The Sultan of Brunei has been looked upon as a leader of the BIMP-Eaga," said Ms Macapagal, who also called for a revival of the regional economic zone during her Aug. 7-9 state visit to Malaysia.

Efforts to boost the BIMP-Eaga were hampered by economic problems in the region following the Asian financial crisis that erupted in mid-1997.

Ms Macapagal boarded a chartered Philippine Airlines flight to Brunei at 8 a.m. shortly after Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri left for

LEAD/ A12

Ping denies wiretaps, but still faces probe

By Armand Nocum and Carlito Pablo

SEN. Panfilo Lacson yesterday issued a blanket denial that he had been involved in illegal wiretapping activities when he was chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), but National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the wiretaps were an open secret in the Philippine National Police.

A confident Lacson doubted whether the Senate would even initiate a fresh investigation into a matter already "dismissed," he said, by the blue ribbon committee.

But Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., leader of the Senate minority to which Lacson belongs and former blue ribbon chair, said "an investigation would have to be done."

Former PNP chief Roberto Lastimoso, a rival of Lacson's, said Jinggoy Estrada, then the mayor of San Juan town, was among those bugged by PAOCTF agents, sometime in 1999. The incident caused a "rift between the President (Joseph Estrada) and Lacson," Lastimoso said.

Wycoco, also a rival of Lacson's for the position of PNP chief, said he himself was a victim of illegal wiretapping operations by the now-defunct PAOCTF.

"My office was also bugged," Wycoco told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo.

He said the acquisition and use of sophisticated bugging equipment by the PAOCTF was common knowledge in Camp Crame. "We knew this all the time," Wycoco said.

At the Senate, Lacson said there was no evidence to pin him down.

He denied that the surveillance equipment, which he inspected in Germany, was ever purchased. The equipment was found to have failed to monitor calls and even caused calls to drop. He said that the two months it was said to have been operational, from November to December 2000, the equipment was then "on an operational test." He denied that the equipment belonged

PING/ A12

Sin backs Ador: 'This is a fight against evil'

By Christine Herrera and Gerald G. Lacuarta

"WITH Estrada deposed, I thought the problems are gone and lessons were learned. This is a fight against evil. Continue the fight against evil and fight for the truth because the truth shall set you free."

Angelo "Ador" Mawanay said this was what Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin told him when they met yesterday morning at the influential Church leader's residence in Mandaluyong City.

The man who has publicly accused Sen. Panfilo Lacson of murder and drug trafficking said he sought Sin's spiritual guidance after his three-day detention at the Senate building.

During a Senate committee hearing on Friday, Mawanay was ordered detained until he could substantiate his charges against still another senator, Loren Legarda.

Mawanay testified that Legarda handed over to him in 1998 an P8.9-million check as payment for 1,000 smuggled cell phones allegedly supplied by Lacson.

Asked to present proof, Mawanay said floodwaters had destroyed the documents relating to the transaction. The Senate decided to release Mawanay on Monday amid Legarda's furious denials.

Even so, Mawanay said he had to see the cardinal because he felt demoralized with what he described was his "traumatic" experience in

SIN/ A13

WONG: Surprise arrival

Who's real Kim Wong? Why is he so rich?

By Christine Herrera, TJ Burgonio and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

WHO'S Kim Wong, and why are they saying those things for and against him? How did he get so rich?

For one thing, he's back in town just as suddenly as he left last week for Hong Kong.

The man, who has been the talk of the town, next only to his alleged patron, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, returned yesterday afternoon to the surprise of immigration agents.

Tagged a drug lord by military intelligence, Wong said he returned here to answer allegations about his criminal activities.

He was neither held for questioning nor arrested since he has not been charged in court. No warrant of arrest has been issued against him, said Simeon Vallada, Bureau of Immigration supervisor at the Naia.

The BI had no advance information on the arrival of Wong, he said.

"When asked by immigration agents, he (Wong) said he's going to face investigation and that he came home to answer accusations hurled against him," said Vallada, in a telephone interview.

Wong, who used his Chinese

WHO'S/ A13

Brother Andrew fined ₱210,000 for buying luxury cars

By Michael Lim Ubac

FORMER Education Secretary Andrew Gonzalez has been found administratively liable by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto for the education department's questionable purchase of P21.5 million worth of luxury vehicles during his term.

Desierto said Gonzalez was meted a P210,000 fine, equivalent to his six months' salary as Cabinet secretary.

However, the Ombudsman found Education Undersecretary Antonio A.S. Valdes guilty of grave misconduct and was ordered dismissed from the service.

Three other education officials—Undersecretaries Bartolome S. Carale and Victor Andres C. Manhit and Assistant Secretary Emmanuel M. Mariano—were, like Gonzalez, found guilty of conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the services. They were meted a fine.

Desierto cleared Gonzalez of any criminal liability in

BROTHER ANDREW/ A13

DEATH IN SULTAN KUDARAT

EDWIN FERNANDEZ/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Grieving comrades of kidnap victim, Chinese engineer Zhang Zhongqiang, view his remains at the morgue inside the Army's 6th Infantry Division in Maguindanao.

Second FRONT PAGE

WALA NANG KAWALA YAN!

All but 2 areas reject expanded ARMM

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

OF THE 25 cities and provinces consulted in the recent plebiscite, only Basilan province and Marawi City have agreed to join an expanded Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the Commission on Elections said as it announced the final results of the five-day canvassing of the Aug. 14 political exercise.

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo said the "yes" vote prevailed in Basilan with 73,866 votes against 22,121 "no" votes.

Marawi City joined its mother province, Lanao del Sur, in the ARMM by a vote of 26,362 "yes" against 2,426 "no."

The Comelec en banc, sitting as the National Board of Canvassers, completed the canvassing yesterday with the arrival of the results from Palawan, which overwhelmingly voted "no," 113,843, against only 1,717 "yes" votes.

The others which rejected inclusion in the expanded ARMM were North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Davao del Sur, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Sarangani, South Cotabato, Lanao del Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay provinces and the cities of Tacurong, Digos, Pagadian, Cotabato, Isabela, Iligan, Zamboanga, General Santos, Koronadal, Puerto Princesa, Dipolog and Dapitan.

Republic Act 9140, the new autonomy act that seeks to amend RA 6734, the law that created ARMM, was ratified in the same plebiscite by the four original ARMM provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Tawi-Tawi and Sulu.

The new law seeks to expand the ARMM by including 11 provinces and 14 cities, of which only two agreed to be included.

Regional elections in the ARMM will be held on Nov. 26.

Comelec commissioner Rex Borra said that with the four provinces agreeing to the amendments to the Organic Act, among them the expansion of ARMM, the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development, will be abolished.

Borra said this was the condition set by Republic Act 9054 which created the SPCPD.

The 1996 peace agreement between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front provided for the creation of the 14-province, 10-city SPCPD to serve as a transitory implementing mechanism to prepare for an expanded autonomous region.

The MNLF, headed by ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari, wanted the autonomous region to be expanded to all SPCPD areas but the peace pact provides that only those areas voting for inclusion in the expanded autonomous region would be part of it.

The SPCPD is tasked with overseeing various projects in the so-called Special Zone of Peace and Development.

World gets smaller for Lacson's boys

By Carlito Pablo
Gerald Lacuarta
and TJ Burgonio

THE LONG arm of the law is expected to catch up soon with fugitive police Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao, two of the most trusted aides of former national police chief Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation said the two police officers are now traveling without valid passports, which were recently canceled by the government.

"They are now paperless travelers" and face immediate deportation from whatever country they have sought refuge, Wycoco told reporters yesterday.

Wycoco said the immigration bureau is making appropriate representations with their counterparts in the US and Canada for the immediate apprehension and repatriation of the two officers.

Arrest warrants

This will be strengthened when warrants of arrest are issued against Aquino and Mancao in connection with the Dacer-Corbito case, the NBI chief said.

With these warrants, the Philippine government can ask the US to repatriate the two under the RP-US Extradition Treaty.

With the same warrants, the NBI can also tap the worldwide Interpol (International Police) network to pinpoint the whereabouts of the two, Wycoco said.

Aquino and Mancao were able to flee, despite a hold-departure order against them, using fake passports.

Earlier reports said the two had fled to Hong Kong by way of the Cebu International Airport.

But yesterday Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo disclosed that Aquino had fled the country aboard a chartered Philippine Airlines plane through the Subic International airport on June 24.

Human smuggling

Domingo said Philippine Airlines, the tour company which chartered the flight and Subic immigration personnel would face investigation for "human smuggling" and violating immigration laws.

"It would be imperative for the officials of this chartered plane to report to the Bureau of Immigration to explain their side or we will cancel their business in Subic," Domingo said.

Aquino and Mancao, who are suspects in the abduction and killing of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and driver Emmanuel Corbito last year, are believed to have gone on to Canada from Hong Kong and eventually to the United States.

Domingo said she learned of Aquino's exit via Subic through a copy of the embarkation card that Aquino had presented to Hong Kong immigration officials.

Aquino, it was learned, boarded PR Flight 316 which left Subic at 6 p.m. on June 24 and arrived in Hong Kong at 7:50 p.m.

She said Aquino's name was not on the passenger manifest of the flight when it was examined by the bureau earlier this month.

Domingo said Hong Kong authorities have confirmed that Aquino's name was not in the manifest of all commercial and chartered flights that arrived in the former British colony on that date.

She suspected that Aquino could have either used a passport with a different name when he left Subic or was smuggled into the plane with the help of immigration officers.

Domingo said the PAL plane that Aquino took to Hong Kong was chartered by the Allied Success Investment Co., a tour operator based in Quandao, China, and the Hong Kong-based Orient Princess Trading.

The Philippine handler of the tour operators is the Subic-based Good Sources Inc., allegedly owned by a certain Frank Lo, a concessionaire of the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. that operates a casino in Subic.

High rollers

Domingo said there were around a hundred passengers in the chartered flight, mostly Chinese casino high-rollers. Twenty of the passengers were Filipinos, including Aquino.

Domingo said she has ordered Rudito Angeles, the former immigration head supervisor at Subic, to explain within 24 hours how Aquino was able to leave despite the hold-departure order that was issued against him.

Angeles was also directed to submit the names of all immigration personnel who were on duty at the Subic airport when Aquino departed so they, too, can be investigated.

In the case of Mancao, Domingo said the bureau has yet to obtain a copy of the embarkation card that he used when he arrived in Hong Kong on July 2, or three days before he and Aquino left for the United States aboard a United Airlines flight.

Domingo earlier said an official of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) at the US Embassy in Manila had already confirmed that the fugitive police officers have crossed the border from the US into Canada.

In Las Vegas

The same INS official also informed her that Aquino and Mancao were spotted in Las Vegas, Nevada, on the last week of July.

The hold-departure order had been issued against Mancao and Aquino for their alleged role in the violent siege on Malacañang by supporters of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada.

Aside from the Dacer-Corbito case, the two have also been implicated in the Kuratong Baleleng summary execution case and the kidnap-slay of casino employee Edgar Bentain.

Wycoco said the NBI has solid evidence to pin down Aquino and Mancao, who both reported to Lacson in the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Task Force, on the Dacer-Corbito case.

He noted that former PAOCTF officer Supt. Glenn Dumlao had executed a statement implicating his two former superiors.

Lawmakers bicker over Basilan probe

By Rocky Nazareno

MEMBERS of the House committee on national defense are crying foul over their Senate counterparts' preempting their planned public hearings in Lamitan, Basilan, to look into the status of the military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

House committee chair Rep. Prospero Pichay lashed out at his counterpart in the Senate, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., for holding separate hearings in Basilan a day before the House inquiry.

"We have been preparing for this for three weeks and although we encountered sharp criticism we still pushed through with our plan," said Pichay.

The Senate will be holding its own hearings in Lamitan today.

The House committee on national defense will begin its inquiry tomorrow, with 15 congressmen expected to attend.

Pichay said the House committee had proposed that both Houses hold a joint hearing in Basilan but Magsaysay had declined.

The congressman said the Magsaysay committee will not have the main witness in today's hearings in Lamitan as Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, whose allegations about military collusion with the Abu Sayyaf had set off the congressional inquiries, would be unable to attend.

"Nacorda is preparing for the Aug. 24 hearing that will be conducted by the House," said Pichay.

The Lamitan parish priest would not be able to attend the Senate hearing "due to lack of material time to gather the witnesses and other testimonies," said Pichay. ***With a report from Christine Avendaño***

Swiss firm vows to look into baby food

A SWITZERLAND-BASED food and agrochemical giant promised yesterday to look into the claim of Greenpeace International that baby food products it sells in the Philippines contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

In a letter to Greenpeace, Novartis International said it will investigate the matter and ask its affiliate Gerber to explain.

Felix Raebe, Novartis media relations chief, described the allegation as serious, promising to "take appropriate action once we have a full understanding of the facts."

According to Greenpeace, Raebe was also asked on Swiss television to explain the issue.

Raebe said "taking appropriate action" meant making sure no GMOs were present in their products.

Last year, Novartis/Gerber pledged to stop using GMOs in its food products.

But laboratory analyses commissioned by Greenpeace revealed the massive presence of transgenic DNA or genetically engineered particles in certain baby food products sold in the Philippines.

NEWSBRIEFS

3 get journalism awards

WHAT do Sheila Coronel, Jessica Soho and Dean Armando Malay Sr. have in common? They are all exemplars of the best in the journalism profession, and now winners of the first Metrobank Foundation's Outstanding Journalists Awards.

Awards sponsors Metrobank Foundation and the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication made the formal announcement of winners during a luncheon meeting cum press conference last Aug. 21at the Penthouse of the Metrobank Plaza in Makati City.

Coronel, Executive Director of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) was adjudged Outstanding Print Journalist, while GMA-7's Soho was declared the Outstanding Broadcast Journalist. Malay, considered one of the country's luminaries in the journalism profession and education, is this year's recipient of the Distinguished Leadership in Journalism Award.

Coronel and Soho will receive a medallion and a cash prize each of P75,000, while Malay will also receive a medallion and a cash prize of P100,000. Formal conferment of the awards will be on Oct. 12.

TB seals drive to be launched

THE PHILIPPINE Tuberculosis Society Inc. (PTSI) will launch the 2001 TB seals campaign at noon tomorrow at the Quezon City Sports Club. This year's TB seal features different scenes from People Power 2 interpreted by 40 well-known Filipino artists based on the theme "People Power 2 in the eyes of Filipino artists." Guest of honor and speaker is Education Secretary Raul S. Roco.

The PTSI board will present plaques of appreciation to the 40 Filipino artists, Philpost, and DECS for their continued patronage of the campaign. The 2001 TB seal committee is chaired by Romeo C. Ranjo, with Col. Gustavo Ingles, Nemi Rivera, Robert Araos, Al Meriales and Manuel D. Baldemor as members. The TB seal campaign raised a total of P5,745,620.51 in year 2001 all earmarked for the society's operations.

Peftok scholars hit 2,000

OVER 2,100 children of Korean War veterans have received financial assistance as scholars under the Peftok Veterans Association Inc. (PVAI) Scholarship Program since 1986.

For school year 2001-2002, the program recently awarded scholarships to 133 college, high school and vocational students throughout the Philippines, according to PVAI president Brig. Gen. Bienvenido Castro (ret.). The awards ceremonies were held at Camp Aguinaldo and were attended by most scholars and their families.

Of the 133 new scholars, 81 are enrolled in college; 46 in high school and six in vocational courses. Most of them study in Metro Manila schools. Computer science is the preferred course of most college scholars.

Castro said the 2,000-scholar milestone was made possible by continued financial support from the South Korean government for the past 15 years. The program is implemented by PVAI, the association of Korean War veterans.

Need for modern airport cited

THE COUNTRY needs to develop a world-class international facility to accommodate the expected increase in passenger movement and tourist arrivals and decongest the existing passenger terminal at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Statistics from the Department of Tourism showed that by year 2004, foreign passenger movement is expected to increase by 13 million while tourist will increase from 2.4 million to 3 million.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon has endorsed the construction of the new Naia International Passenger Terminal 3, citing it as a boost to the country's effort to tap a larger chunk of world tourist receipts (WTR) which is estimated to total $500 billion annually.

There are about seven to eight million passengers passing through the 20-year-old Naia Terminal 1 which was originally designed to accommodate four million passengers annually.

In its Tourism Master Plan, DOT cited the need for the national government to develop new world-class international gateways in Luzon wherein Manila remains the principal gateway despite existence of other international gateways in Clark, Subic and Laoag, Ilocos Norte.

"East Asia and the Pacific had the highest growth in the year 2000. International tourist arrivals registered 14.7 percent more than 1999. If this trend continues, the World Trade Organization forecasts that East Asia and the Pacific will overtake the Americas in terms of tourist arrivals and land the number two slot in the world, right after Europe," Gordon said.

Pagcor posts new record

THE PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp. yesterday said it registered a new high of P1.6 billion earnings for one month last July. This marks the third time that Pagcor broke its monthly revenue record during the year, Pagcor said in a press statement. The first was last April when the corporation earned P1.39 billion, and the second was in June when it generated P1.5 billion.

According to Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino, Pagcor's P1.6 billion income in July brought to P9.92 billion the corporation's gross revenues during the first seven months of the year. This is higher by 22 percent than the P8.17 billion total income of Pagcor for the same period last year.

Genuino, however, clarified that Pagcor does not retain earnings.

"Pagcor's earnings are remitted every month to the government treasury and our other mandated recipients. We only keep what we need for operations," he said.

From January to July 2001, Pagcor said, it remitted a total of P5.92 billion to government coffers and its agency-beneficiaries. The biggest recipients were the National Treasury, which received P4.89 billion, and the President's Social Fund which got P597 million.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS
PASAY CITY

ANNOUNCEMENT

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has submitted to the Commission on Appointments (C.A.) for confirmation the ad interim appointment of Domingo L. Siazon, Jr., as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Japan, Chief of Mission I, in the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The public may submit any information, written report or sworn complaints or oppositions in thirty one (31) copies on the above appointment to the CA Secretariat, 6th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila.

For the schedule of the public hearings, the CA Secretariat can be reached through telephone numbers 551-7532, 831-0893, 831-1824 and 834-2706.

22 August 2001.

EDDIE U. TAMONDONG
Secretary

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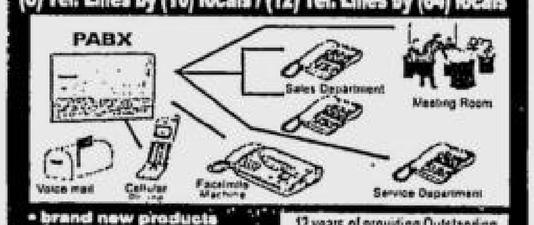

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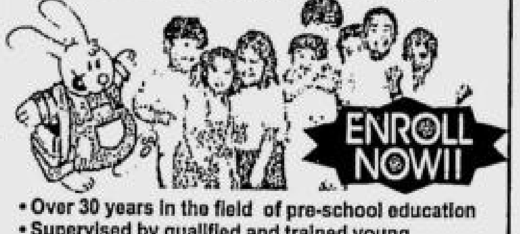

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Prosecution still looking for evidence vs Erap

Withdrawal tale propaganda ploy, says Estrada aide

A SPOKESMAN for former President Joseph Estrada branded yesterday as a "propaganda ploy" the allegation made by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto that someone had tried to withdraw the bank funds of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation, which has been linked to Estrada.

"It makes no sense for Mr. Estrada to withdraw money from the account because an intact account could be used as evidence by his lawyers," said Jesus Crispin Remulla, spokesman for Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino, in a press statement.

Desierto reported the other day that someone had tried to withdraw all the funds of the EMYF. The transaction did not push through and the person was not identified.

"The fact is the EMYF account at Equitable-PCI Bank amounting to P211.49 million is intact and earning interest and cannot be touched under an iron-clad agreement entered into by the foundation's board of trustees," Remulla said.

Estrada is not a member of this board, he added.

Remulla said all the trustees must authorize any withdrawals. For another thing, he said, the EMYF account cannot be attached because the foundation has not been impleaded in the plunder case against Estrada.

BY DONNA S. CUETO

IN YET another twist in the perjury case against former President Joseph Estrada, a government prosecutor admitted yesterday the prosecution was still looking for evidence that would link the ousted leader to five corporations cited in the charge sheet.

The admission was made as the Sandiganbayan's First Division heard the prosecution's final attempt to have the information in the perjury case amended to include 51 corporations which allegedly had definite links to Estrada.

The court yesterday stood by its earlier decision denying the prosecution's motion.

As a result, the prosecution is limited to presenting the records of only five corporations, aside from Estrada's alleged undeclared bank accounts, to prove their perjury case against him.

The corporations are Valhalla Resources Co., Becks Resources Co., KB Space Holdings Co., Verdant Resources Co. and VFC Realty and Development Corp.

It came out at yesterday's hearing that the prosecution was still trying to find even an "indirect link" between Estrada and the five corporations.

"We are still trying to find out if the former president was at least an indirect stockholder in the companies," deputy special prosecutor Roberto Kallos said.

The prosecution said Estrada's name did not appear in documents they obtained from the Securities and Exchange Commission on the five corporations.

The prosecution said it believes Estrada used dummies to cover up his interests.

"So as of now, *wala tayong kamalay-malay kung paano isasabit ito kay President Estrada* (We have no idea how we are going to pin this on Estrada)," an incredulous Garchitorena asked, referring to the prosecution's admission.

"The court sees the travail of the prosecution at this time. The court also sees where its duty lies," Garchitorena said.

He ruled that adding the 51 corporations to the charge sheet after Estrada had been arraigned on June 27 was "inappropriate" and "improper."

He said the prosecution's move coming after the arraignment would be "violative of the substantive rights of the accused."

He noted that some of the five corporations were not even mentioned in the preliminary investigation by the Ombudsman.

"In perjury, the truth must be stated. It is not enough to say that the accused lied without saying what the truth is," Garchitorena said.

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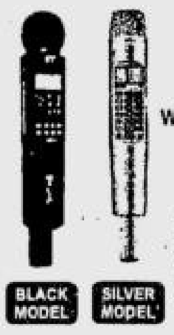

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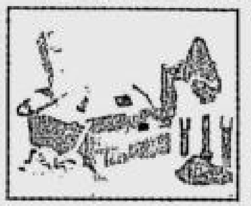

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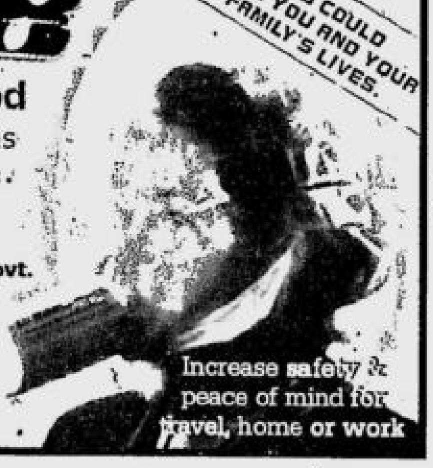

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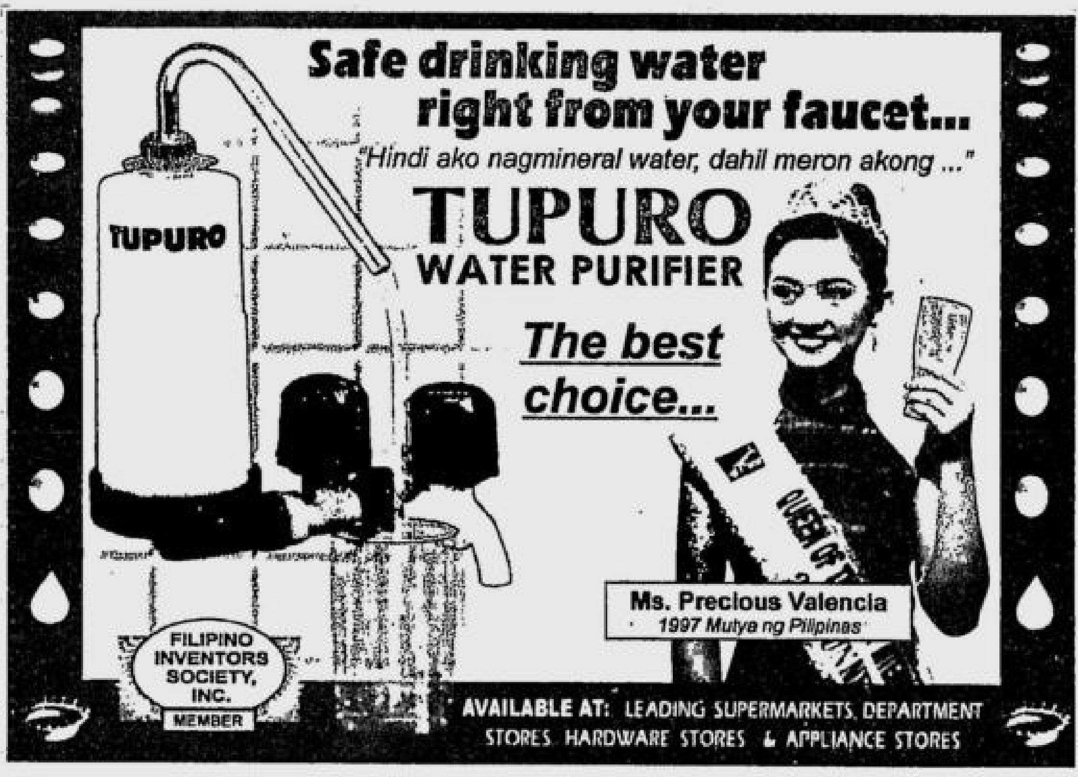

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Farther away

EDITORIALS

ON ITS second day of hearings on the allegations of money laundering and drug trafficking involvement laid by Col. Victor Corpus against Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the Senate grafted into its inquiry a practice in the parliamentary system called the Question Hour. This turned the Senate into a committee of the whole to interrogate Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

The Question Hour lifted the inquiry from the level of the three Senate committees that began the investigation, but it departed from the tradition of the Question Hour. In the parliamentary system, this is a period in which the members of the opposition inquire into government policies and decisions, translating the notion of accountability into reality. This did not happen in last Tuesday's Question Hour. The interrogation was focused on Reyes, not on the policies of the Macapagal administration. Instead, Reyes was grilled on the methods of the military intelligence gathering, on whether public money was being spent wisely in the investigation of Lacson's activities, and on the credibility of Corpus and the former civilian agent of Lacson's now defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

The Question Hour served to draw away fire from Lacson, thereby reinforcing the growing public perception that the Senate is looking for scapegoats and paving the way for clearing Lacson.

The session, however, also showed that the military establishment is closing ranks behind Corpus in this inquisition, which seems to have been expanded to find out whether the military is hatching a plot to discredit civil institutions like the Senate for a possible military takeover. If the military as an institution is closing ranks, it is a fair response to the closing of ranks in the Senate, which is clearly demonstrating that it is no more than an old boys club shielding its members.

Of course, the expansion of the inquiry to cover the "demolition job" scenario is highly speculative and it brings the Senate farther away from taking a close look at the evidence Corpus is prepared to submit.

Wider inquiry

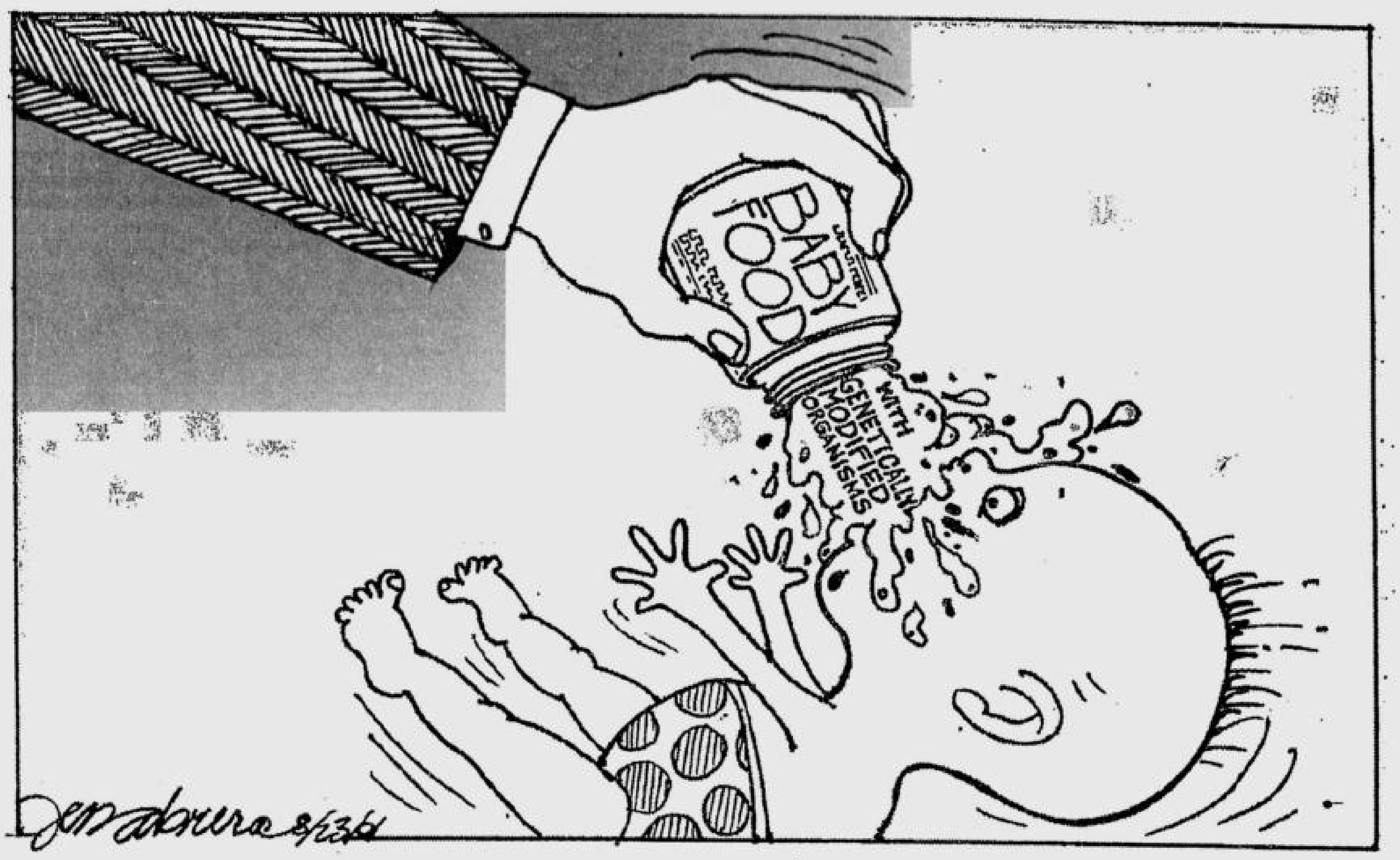
EVENTS are overtaking the Senate and even forcing it to expand the scope of its inquiry. Former Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim has given some substance to Corpus' allegation linking Kim Wong, the restaurant operator and garments manufacturer, to drug trafficking. Lacson has admitted he is a friend of Wong's; they were so close that Lacson borrowed a cell phone from Wong who also paid for the bills. Now it appears that Wong has many friends not only in the police force but among powerful politicians.

Lim has branded Wong as a "drug lord masquerading as a businessman," for which he has been invited to give evidence in the Senate hearings. Whatever Lim's reputation for cutting corners in law enforcement, his campaign against drug trafficking is genuine, meaning it was not a front for extortion. Corpus has found an improbable ally in Lim.

The senators, in their effort to deflect the inquiry away from Lacson, have expressed concerns over the possibility of snooping by the military spies into their activities. Military intelligence surveillance can be abused, but the senators have more to worry over the news report that police had seized a computer hard disk showing that the PAOCTF had eavesdropped on important political people during the impeachment trial of deposed President Estrada. The targets included former Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and opposition figures.

If this is true, the Senate has been penetrated by an alleged former spymaster who has collected dossiers on many people and is in a position to blackmail them. The report on the seizure of the sophisticated PAOCTF surveillance equipment should be a legitimate reason for the redirection of the Senate inquiry.

In questioning the intelligence methods of the military, the senators may be forced to turn a blind eye on the other danger of surveillance from other sources. The surveillance equipment and Lim's disclosure have opened new areas for inquiry that might be helpful in making the public aware of the scale of the drug trade in this country and the other aspects of Lacson's activities as Estrada's police chief.



Our law against perjury is toothless

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE "ADOR" affair highlights glaring defects in our society:

1. That our law against perjury is toothless.
2. It is so easy for detainees to "escape."

Regarding No. 1, I am not saying that Ador Mawanay committed perjury but the widespread skepticism that greeted his testimony shows how the people don't trust even testimony made under oath. Because it is so easy to lie under oath without fear of being punished, witnesses routinely lie through their teeth before the courts, often with the instructions, cooperation, coaching and rehearsing of and by lawyers who are legally officers of the court. Affidavits or sworn statements usually contain outright lies, half-truths and exaggerations. People take them as a matter of course. We have laws against this, but I have yet to hear of a witness or a lawyer who has been punished for perjury.

Regarding No. 2, the case with which Ador was sprung from Senate detention shows how loose our jail system is. A guy tells Ador's guards that somebody has already coordinated with Senate President Franklin Drilon regarding Ador's release and they readily let him loose without checking with Drilon himself. They set him free on the say-so of somebody they didn't even know. Maybe the presence of "two truckloads" of Isafp agents convinced Ador's guards of the truthfulness of their claims, but you see right there how even just a hint or threat of violence can open jail doors. The saying that "The truth shall set you free" is no longer true. It is now "Implied threats shall set you free."

If you need further proof that our prison system is leaking like a sieve, prisoners are routinely freed for assassination missions as in the case of slain Mayor Emilio Espinosa Jr. of Masbate—and return to prison after the deed is done. They have an airtight alibi: they are in prison, so how can they kill anybody outside?

Recently, it was revealed that prisoners are being released permanently from the National Penitentiary on the basis of fake documents. This has happened so many times that prison officials can't even count how many prisoners have been released this way.

If Ador, already a celebrity and covered so closely by the media, can escape so easily, imagine how much easier it is for unknown prisoners to walk out of prison quietly. If the murder and cannibalism of Italian priest Fr. Tullio Favali had not been such a high-profile case, his killer, Norberto Manero, would have been released permanently a long time ago.

The poem that says "stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage" is still true. It is so easy to escape from them. That is why the threat of imprisonment never deters criminals. Money and influence can easily open prison doors.

***

It is refreshing to hear that the Philippine National Police has finally managed to arrest a gang of cell-phone snatchers in Manila. In the judgment of journalists, that is really news—because it is such a rare occurrence. Now, if only the PNP can catch some more snatchers with their fences, then perhaps cellphone snatching and the selling of stolen units will cease to be such a lucrative cottage industry.

I don't want to tell the PNP what to do, but it would perhaps be fruitful to assign a police team of undercover agents to the corner of Rodriguez and Araneta Avenues in Quezon City. Snatchers there have become so bold and brazen. They victimize motorists while they are waiting for the traffic signals to change to green.

Recently, the INQUIRER reported the story of a woman motorist whose cell phone, a Nokia 3210 (yes, the same type that Ador claims he sold to Sen. Loren Legarda), was snatched from her lap. The car window was partly open because she was smoking (that was the most expensive cigarette she ever smoked). The snatcher simply reached through the window and ran with the Nokia to the nearby squatters' colony.

There were two traffic cops at the corner but they didn't even make any attempt to chase the snatcher. It was the woman driver and her mother who left their car to bravely chase the snatcher into the squatter colony. But of course they didn't even see where he went.

I think the snatchers there target women drivers. Some time ago, I wrote about the ordeal of my daughter's friend whose car's two side mirrors were snatched while she was stopped by the red light on the same corner. Two men simply walked on each side of the car and pried off the two side mirrors, then ran away to the same squatter colony. The uniformed traffic cops on that corner were probably already so used to the snatchings that they didn't even bother to do anything.

That is why police undercover agents (like the "secret marshals" who were so effective against jeepney and bus holdup gangs) are needed here. The snatchers are not afraid of uniformed cops. Maybe they even have drinking sessions with them after they have sold their stolen goods.

***

TODAY'S JOKE sounds better in Filipino. It doesn't sound as well in translation.

Inay, tulungan n'yo nga ako sa aking assignment. Ano po ba ang pagkakaiba ng dragon, elephant at lion?

Walang pagkakaiba ang mga 'yan, anak. Parepareho silang Katol.

Letters

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I GOT a load of letters in response to the column, "Growing up confused." Here are some of the most thoughtful ones.

From a Filipino Chinese, whose name I will not mention out of respect for his privacy:

"Your latest column focuses on the difficulties of Filipinos transplanted in American society. I remember my own experience as a youth coming from mixed cultural backgrounds. I've had to resolve my own problem of identity, my father being ethnic Chinese and my mother being Filipino. I believe the process of acculturation would have been easier for the Fil-Am youths you mentioned had their parental culture (which is Filipino) fostered an independent sense of self. Instead, they, like us, were probably raised to conform and to live up to many expectations placed upon them by their peers, their families and their social class. Independence.

"In my personal view, it is the ideal of the self-made yet socially responsible person that sets Americans far apart from Filipinos. We don't have this culture. What we have is trying to live up to the demands of our *kamaganak*, our *barkada*, our *Panginoon*. The gap between the two is very wide. I believe your Fil-Am youths have found themselves caught in this crossfire. Early in my life I found myself in a similar dilemma. I come from a middle-class background, my father being a fifth-generation Chinese born in Iloilo and my mother hailing from Jalajala. As a boy I spent many hours either with maternal or paternal relatives, but never with both. Soon I became aware of how Filipinos and Chinese shy away from each other. In the rare social gatherings where both branches were invited, my relatives would stick to themselves, diverging along lines of language and culture.

"The separation was fine with me until the day the question crept into my mind: Are you Filipino or are you Chinese? That occurred to me at some point in my teenage years. It wasn't enough that I accepted the wall dividing Filipinos and Chinese, I had to resolve my own ethnic affiliations. Add to that the insistent taunts and queries from peers, this sense of self became a very serious issue for me.

"This is where my religious orientation came to the rescue. All individuals are created equally in the eyes of God. A person's ethnicity and social standing doesn't matter. What's important is whether he or not she is decent and charitable in her behavior. That helped resolve the issue. Whenever someone put the challenge to me of loyalties, I would respond firmly, 'If being a Filipino means insulting the Chinese, then I am not a Filipino; if being a Chinese means belittling Filipinos, then I am ashamed to be called a Chinese.' Ultimately, I saw myself accountable only to God and my conscience.

"We all live in circles of widening relationship. At times we find them in conflict; at times we find them in harmony. From what I've seen here in America, the educational system greatly helps in bringing children from disparate cultural backgrounds into the great American whole. Though their families come from all corners of the world, they grow up learning to belong to a wider relationship, which is the American citizenry. But for those Fil-Am kids you talked about, I know the amount of confusion and consternation they must be going through. I sympathize. I only hope that this sense of membership in a wider community eases the rough spots in their growth as well-balanced adults."

From Monina Diaz, who runs the movie/documentary outfit CineDiaz in Austin, Texas:

"Just read your article 'Growing up confused.' On the other side of that coin, the Fil-Ams or Philippine-born Pinoys who now live in America who have transcended their 'situation' have gone on to much success. It may be a mixture of being driven and having a large dose of naiveté. When I first came to this country at age 16, I had a lot of both. I had no idea that there were differences between me and the others (i.e., the whites). In fact having grown up in the Philippines, I felt a bit of a reverse discrimination against the 'Kanos.' I felt in a lot of ways superior—more educated, better traveled and certainly better dressed—than they. I felt more empowered than most of my female American friends who grew up in a society where women were not as equal as they would have wanted. Now close to 25 years later, I'm not as naive (or so I hope) but I'm not less empowered either.

"I have fond memories of Manila and I love going back home (yes, after all these years I still call it home). My 4-year-old daughter is curious as hell about the place. She loves the dresses they wear in the Philippines. You know, the Assumption uniform—yes, I went to school there, but please don't let this cloud the legitimacy of this e-mail. That's because she's seen pictures of my school days and of course everyone is wearing the same thing. I have not disabused her of the thought that that is the national costume; I will in time. But my point is that the Philippines will be very much a part of her life. Am I alone in this? Certainly not. I know a lot of Filipinos living in America who feel like I do. A substantive number? Maybe not. But there are still quite a few of us out here who feel that way—and if we go on to have children who fell this way, there will be many of us."

From a "Bulakenyo in the US":

"Your article touched a raw nerve. There is a certain degree of animosity that exists between young Filipinos who were born here and those who were brought, or came, here. But this is prevalent not only with Filipinos but with other nationalities as well. When I was working with the US Census, applicants who spoke (not necessarily wrote in) a language other than English were given hiring preference. As a result, the office became a hub of cultural and ethnic diversity. Older generation Chinese people did not want to associate with younger Chinese-Americans. When I asked one of the older-generation Chinese employee for an explanation, she told me that the younger generation may look like Chinese but they are not. They do not posses the morals and values of 'a real Chinese.' She called them 'ABC' for American-Born-Chinese. They were just bananas, she said. Yellow on the outside but white on the inside."

Senate should follow example of US Congress

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

COL. Victor Corpus is dealing with a hostile Senate that has a myopic view of things. Sen. John Osmeña was recently quoted as saying, "Corpus baited us into the investigation (of his charges) and we foolishly took the bait." He opined that it was not the job of the Senate to find Sen. Panfilo Lacson guilty or innocent, since that task belongs to the Ombudsman. But judging from the experience of the US Congress, our Congress is the best forum for investigations of money laundering and the organized crimes that have fed it, as well as much-needed reforms in Philippine banking.

The US Congress has for years been conducting congressional investigations of the money laundering activities of US banks, principally through its investigative arm, the General Accounting Office (GAO). Members of the US Congress from both the Republican and Democratic parties saw the problem the way Corpus sees it: that the syndicates' enormous fortunes being deposited in US banks are the "fruit" of illegal activities and organized crime that gravely imperil US society, primarily drug-trafficking.

* * *

The US Congress conducted a nine-month inquiry and subpoenaed records of Citibank New York and the Commercial Bank of San Francisco. These records revealed that an unknown number of Russians and other East Europeans moved more than $1.4 billion through those banks. In addition, the investigators were able to crack into what's considered one of the most secretive parts of the global financial system, private banking, in which wealthy customers are afforded extra discretion and care. Thus came to light the incredible fortunes amassed by political leaders from Mexico, Venezuela, Nigeria, Pakistan and Gabon through corruption and organized crime activities, and stashed in US banks. Among them were Raul Salinas, elder brother of Mexico's former president, for whom Citibank moved around about $100 million in secret accounts, and Asif Ali Zadari, husband of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan.

The US hearings also summoned some of the world's most powerful bankers who admitted to a lot of hanky-panky as they coddled the biggest depositors with ill-gotten wealth.

* * *

Our Congress should do no less. How we wish that our senators could rise above their paranoia over their "besmirched reputation" and the "old boys club" mentality and confront the grave threat of an emerging narco-political state and all the illegal activities that fund it. The accusations leveled by Corpus against Lacson and Estrada have taken political color because of who they are, but remove them from the scene and the threat of a narco-politics in this country would still persist. The fate of this country is in the hands of Congress.

* * *

Recently the World Bank invited the media to a briefing on what it termed the "Filipino Report Card on Pro-Poor Services." As the name implies, a report card is a grading system done by people using certain criteria. For its report card, the World Bank undertook from March 26 to April 17, 2000, in collaboration with the Social Weather Stations, a survey of 1,200 households nationwide in four regions: the National Capital Region, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The respondents, answering some 300 questions, were asked to assess their expectations of government in the delivery of five basic and critical services, as against the quality and adequacy of those actually delivered. These were health care, elementary education, water supply, housing and subsidized rice distribution.

* * *

The results were nothing less than explosive in some areas, and definitely disturbing in just about every aspect. For instance, it was shown that the non-poor benefited more from the rice subsidy of the National Food Authority than the poor. The same was true of deposed President Estrada's program "Lingap Para sa Mahirap."

The World Bank report card also showed that one-third of the people devised their own ways to get water because unlike the luckier two-thirds, they had no access to "formal" sources such as deep wells and piped water. Three percent had to buy their water from vendors at atrocious prices, meaning that the poor were spending the most on low-quality vended water. They were also forced to collect water from contaminated sources and store it in unclean containers and drink it untreated.

* * *

Because the World Bank study showed that water for many households was so expensive, eating up from 2 to 9 percent of total household expenditures, consumption of water for the poor was so limited that it endangered their health. Half of all poor and rural households consumed less than 30 liters per capita per day, which barely meets normal requirements. Among the poor who bought water, the median consumption was just 15 liters, a level "dangerously close to the survival minimum."

* * *

The survey, which was conducted in the first half of deposed President Estrada's last year in office, appraised his "Lingap Para sa Mahirap" whose aim was to reduce the number of poor Filipinos from 24 million in 1997 to 17 million by 2004. But while the "report card" was about a pro-poor program that has been discarded, its results doubtless remain valid. Efforts by the Macapagal administration to pull up the people from their poverty level has not produced much difference in their lives.

What's good about the World Bank report card was that it provided our leaders with a "user or client feedback," a "bottoms up" perspective—instead of the usual trickle-down perspective furnished by the technocrats and experts who always claim to know better what's good for the poor. It also shows us how the collective strength of the poor could be harnessed for good. For instance, the survey showed that parent-teachers associations to which majority of those surveyed belonged could be a critical tool for monitoring the education department.

* * *

If our leaders were smart, they would institutionalize the report card system as a kind of feedback and monitoring mechanism on how the poor in our midst feel about the delivery of basic services. It's also a good measure of public accountability, something that is sorely missing in our government, both national and local. This mechanism should be especially useful to the Macapagal administration which seems to be pushing in earnest poverty alleviation programs. The World Bank has conducted workshops for the members of Congress, with one message: Please listen to your people.

Voices from below

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT used to be that the only way ordinary citizens could give feedback to their officials was during elections, through the ballot. And many times, even this process was subverted by the all too common practices of vote-buying, terrorism or cheating. Which means, essentially, that unless you're a big contributor, a ward leader or a media person, there's no way you can tell off an official, enforce accountability or demand better public services.

Still, there are ways of "listening to the voices from below," which more and more experts recognize as necessary if democracy is to function as it should: as an obligation and duty on the part of officials, and as an exercise in sovereignty and accountability on the part of constituents, not the other way around, as it happens to be these days.

Recently, the World Bank Manila office released a study called the "Filipino Report Card on Pro-poor Services" which sought what Social Weather Stations' Dr. Mahar Mangahas calls "data from below" to measure the public's access to, satisfaction with and use of public services. World Bank senior social scientist Bhuvan Bhatnagar said the project tried to "inform citizens about what services they should expect from government." While at the same time, it aimed to get them to rate the quality and availability of these services, and to rate the performance of agencies and officials.

The "Report Card" is based on a national survey undertaken last year by the World Bank in collaboration with the SWS. Some 1,200 households were interviewed for the report. In addition, consultations were conducted with community groups as well as agencies rated by the respondents.

Five sectors of basic services and "Lingap Para sa Mahirap," the Erap-era poverty alleviation program, were rated. Amando Doronila wrote last week on the "Report Card's" assessment of Lingap. The study found that far from expanding coverage of anti-poverty programs, the purportedly "pro-poor" Erap administration helped even fewer poor and politicized the anti-poverty program.

But true to its non-traditional nature, the "Report Card" comes up with even more surprises.

* * *

LET me just focus on the education sector, specifically elementary education.

The study showed that while elementary education is almost universal, with 9 out of 10 school-age children enrolled, 88 percent of them in public schools, socio-economic standing remains the primary factor in determining whether a child stays in school and completes his or her education.

But affordability is not the only reason for children dropping out from school. "Poor health (or disability) is the top reason for dropping out," the report states, followed by economic reasons such as the high cost of education or the need for the child to work. For this reason, the respondents recommended programs to help poor families keep their children in school, including in-school health care, full exemption from miscellaneous fees and more qualified and better-trained teachers.

These are not exactly surprises, but one suggestion that I found startling was the recommendation for scholarships for children from poor families, specifically targeted at boys in rural areas. This was a surprise because traditional assumptions hold that poor families are biased in favor of education for boys, and that it is girls who need special support to stay in school.

But as some World Bank researchers revealed, Filipino parents apparently believe they get better "returns" from educating their daughters. This is because girls are more studious and better-behaved at school, and that even after they finish schooling or start their own families, daughters are more inclined to continue helping their parents and siblings.

Another surprise finding was the rich "social equity" waiting to be tapped from Parent-Teacher Associations, which are widespread (present in 98 percent of public schools) and draw the participation of two-thirds of parents. "PTAs are a potent force for reform," the report states, with members feeling that they have considerable influence on the teaching programs, which could "help enhance responsiveness, accountability and results-orientation in elementary schools."

One value to be taken from "listening to the voices from below," it turns out, is discovering the will and energy to help of those previously believed to be merely on the receiving end of government services. There is a rich resource of "social capital" waiting to be tapped, if only the government would take the time to reach out and listen.

* * *

MANY of you might still remember James Auste, 23, a cancer survivor who gained national prominence last year when he embarked on "Bike for Life," a nationwide bike tour to raise awareness about cancer and lift the morale of people living with cancer, especially children.

With his family, friends and supporters, Auste was able to bike from Manila to Cebu in 15 days last June, passing through 15 cities and towns and proclaiming the "gospel" of early detection and proper care and treatment of cancer. The money they were able to raise went into a "Cancer Warriors Fund" that will be used to sustain various projects.

Today, Auste, together with Dr. Aiee Antonio and some friends of the Retinoblastoma (RB) Fund, is embarking on what he calls "another journey of hope and for life" with a concert dubbed "Cancert: Kantahan para sa Kabataang may Kanser (Concert for Children with Cancer)." "Cancert" takes place on Sunday, Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo. Featured artists are renowned choirs and choral groups like Bukas Palad, Hangad, DLSU Chorale, UE Choir, Assumption HS Glee Club, St. Scholastica's HS Glee Club, and the church-based Psalm Ensemble. For information on tickets, you may contact the Bike for Life Foundation at Tel. No. 551-4588 and 551-1650; by fax at 833-0059; or e-mail at jauste@pacific.net.ph.

WB: Erap pro-poor services went to non-poor

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

HOUSING for the poor, despite former President Joseph Estrada's constant trumpeting of his concern for the homeless, ranked lowest (fifth) in the World Bank's "Filipino Report Card on Pro-Poor Services" released recently.

Water supply (fourth) was second from the bottom, followed by food distribution (third) and education (second). Health, though first in the overall ranking on public services, also got a failing grade.

Were the poor served? Were they satisfied? How did things look from where they stood or groveled? Or were the "non-poor" the ones who benefited?

Also assessed was the much vaunted "Lingap Para sa Mahirap" (Caring for the Poor) Program, Estrada's flagship poverty reduction program. (The bulk of the benefits of Lingap went to the non-poor.)

While the report shows that the past administration did not walk their talk, it also serves as a reminder to the present one that the poor are generally unsatisfied. They felt neglected at the time of the survey and they surely remain so now.

World Bank senior social scientist Bhuvan Bhatnagar explained that the survey generated from respondents: awareness of service, availability of service, use/non-use of service, satisfaction with service, comparisons, costs (actual and hidden) and recommendations for improvement.

"The Report Card" was based on a client satisfaction survey done by the World Bank in collaboration with the Social Weather Stations (SWS) from March 26 to April 17, 2000, the second year of the Estrada administration. It covered 1,200 households nationwide.

Why the report card? Most accountability mechanisms for public services focus on inputs (personnel, facilities, expenditures) "but little is known about the QUALITY of the services delivered by the State." There should be a shift in how government regards Filipinos. Citizens should be considered customers or clients rather than beneficiaries. So the World Bank study used the user feedback approach which private firms use to improve their product.

Housing. The World Bank found out that the poor were extremely dissatisfied with their housing. In Mindanao and the Visayas two out of three households thought their housing inadequate. Dissatisfaction was higher in rural than in urban areas.

Only one-tenth of the respondents ever applied for housing assistance. A third of these did so because of government relocation drives. Most of the housing assistance was captured by the non-poor.

Water. The poor pay more for water but they get less. The report classifies water supply services into three: Level 1 is a point source like a spring or protected well; Level 2 is a piped system with community faucets; Level 3 is a full waterworks system with individual house connections.

Only 64 percent of Filipinos get water from Level 1, 2 or 3 systems. A third rely on self-provisioning. Three percent get water from vendors. This means that 37 percent devise their own ways to get water, even from contaminated sources.

Rural communities and Mindanao are underserved. Water consumption by the poor is unacceptably low—less than 30 liters per capita per day, which barely meets human requirements. Low water quality hurts especially the poor who spend for water treatment. The rich, who avail of the Level 3 system, are more subsidized than the poor.

Food. Client feedback on the Erap stores supposed to be in poor areas was not encouraging. The middle-income and the rich were more aware of these stores than the poor. The rice subsidy program benefited the non-poor more than the poor. The report suggests that the government should target rice subsidy to the poor rather than having a general subsidy for all. NFA rice sold in these stores, while low in cost, was inferior in quality.

Education. The dropouts were mostly from poor families in rural areas. Two out of five children not in school were Mindanao residents. Of those who dropped out in elementary school, 60 percent did so in Grades 4 and 5.

Health and economic factors were the main reasons from dropping out, while poor grades accounted for a small percentage. While public school education is lower in cost, it is also inferior in quality.

Health. Public health services were inferior. Cost of treatment, medicines and supplies were low, but so was the quality of facilities and services. But the poor had no choice. The report points out that the non-poor availed of these more than the poor do.

Primary facilities (barangay health centers) were bypassed because of their poor services and diagnosis, lack of medicines and supplies, absenteeism and personnel's lack of skill.

The World Bank found it disconcerting that there was a quality deficit among government hospitals in the national capital region which got a large share of the national health budget.

When Loi and Clarissa meet. Last Aug. 16 I had lunch at a Chinese restaurant in Rockwell with three gutsy women, one of whom was leaving for the African missions. While waiting for our food we noticed some matrons coming in. We realized they were the Mares.

Guess who came in to have lunch too? Clarissa Ocampo, the star witness in the Estrada plunder case, Ocampo, and a female friend. They approached our table to say hello then occupied the free table near the entrance.

Then guess who entered to join the Mares? Estrada's first missus and now Sen. Loi Ejercito. Loi was coming in while Clarissa was seated when their eyes met. Clarissa smiled her sweetest. Loi did not and appeared a bit stunned. We had fun watching from our high chairs close to the wall. Clarissa was seated about five feet away from Loi and the Mares (I counted 26).

Out of curiosity I went out to assess the security detail. Loi's *sikyu* were on one side and Clarissa's were on the other side.

Clarissa looked relaxed. Just before leaving she again approached our table to thank my friend (a friend of her family) for something. She was about three meters from Loi. We chuckled, she chuckled.

A terrible/wonderful day

YOUNGBLOOD

Kala Barba

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

THERE'S this common saying that goes, "You must have gotten up on the wrong side of the bed." I've never found out if it's true because one side of my bed is against the wall, and so I can get up only on the other side. But that particular morning, I must have managed it somehow. And spilling the juice on the newspaper (and on my dog) was just the start of it.

Almost soon as I left the house, I realized that I had left the book I was reading on my desk. I had taken to reading "My Twilight Summer: A Play in Four Acts" by a Japanese playwright on the MRT and now I had forgotten to pick it up on my way out of the house. It wouldn't have bothered me much normally, but I also left in that book the MRT card which I had been using as a bookmark.

As I lined up to buy a ticket at the MRT station, I started thinking of Dr. Muhata, the African sorcerer who could tell you how your day would progress and about whom Julien had told me so much. I was still thinking of Dr. Muhata 15 minutes later as the long line was moving very slowly. I was cursing Dr. Muhata (who must have been coughing all the time somewhere in Africa) when a train stopped somewhere in between stations and a voice came on the loudspeaker to apologize for the "inconvenience."

Then followed little random things that normally wouldn't have bothered but did that day: my computer hanging and restarting, only to hang again; a long line at the cafeteria at the end of which I was told they had run out of sandwiches, etc.

I had to meet some people for dinner all the way in Quezon City, so I left the office early. The moment I stepped out of Citibank Towers, it started to rain. I'm not talking about cute little raindrops that go with the song but of huge, cruel torrential rains that drench your spirit as much as your body. It was exactly like the scene in ol' Baz's "Romeo and Juliet," wherein ol' Leonardo drops to his knees (dramatically) under the rain, shouting "I am fortune's fooool!" I mentally tortured Dr. Muhata in my mind as I ran for shelter, using my jacket to cover my head.

I was shivering in the train's freezing air-conditioning for 15 minutes, until I reached the Cubao station. And then I had to walk in the rain again. Parts of Cubao were flooded as usual, so I had to weave through the throngs of people trying to get a ride. Finally, I succeed in getting a taxi and quickly jumped into the backseat, grateful to finally be out of the rain and anticipating that if I survived this dinner it would all be over.

But this is where my story turns serious. Out of habit, my hand flew to my neck to touch my necklace as the taxi started to move. My eyes opened wide in shock. My necklace wasn't there anymore.

Let me tell you about this necklace. It is a key that hangs from a leather strap. I consider it my jewelry. It's the only thing I wear all the time, aside from my watch. And it's priceless. Julien gave it to me, and I've been wearing it ever since. I love that necklace as much as I love the person who gave it to me. Some people have said, "It's such a Kala thing to wear." (I don't know what that means, but thanks anyway.)

I reacted ungracefully. I got out of the taxi. I carefully retraced my steps under the rain, without feeling the rain anymore. I was numb to the events of my day, and I wasn't going to go home without that necklace. I didn't want to think I lost it inside the train or all the way back in Makati. I kept telling myself that it probably fell somewhere, somewhere here, after I exited the train or just around here somewhere...

Twenty-five minutes later, my eyes stinging with tears (yep, I did cry, I was feeling very emotional), my head asking me what was going on, I figured it was time to go home. Tired, drained, wet, I took a taxi and didn't bother with dinner.

When I got home, I remembered that I'd left my house keys at the office. The perfect ending for a no-so-perfect day! I found myself sitting on my cousin Mat's blue carpeted floor, while he fed his firstborn a bottle of milk. And that's when Mat gave me a big dose of words I needed to hear.

At first he laughed at my ordeal and made fun of me, but a few minutes later he turned serious, warning me that I would lose bigger things along the way, more important things. That I would lose ideas, dreams, thoughts, words, part of my spirit, pieces of soul. And then, what would you do? He wanted to know. Would you just cry? Slump into a chair, wailing about your bad luck? Be brave and smile about it?

You have to have this little space around your heart, he continued. Imperceptible, but existing. You should fill your heart with people you love and things you love and dreams and wishes and art and poetry, faces, places, but always leave this little space and reserve this little extra strength that will keep you going, even though you lose some those things in your journey.

A journey to where, I don't know. I'm not giving my opinion on what I think about what Mat told me. I'll let you form your own conclusions, to make the most out of what he said, to judge whether you agree or not.

After he had spoken, I felt much better. It wasn't just a necklace, but at the same time it was just a necklace. No, that thing was special. I couldn't understand, but there it was. And I sincerely thanked whoever or whatever was responsible for this day. With the blind belief that everything would turn out all right, somehow.

Mentally I said sorry to Dr. Muhata, and he forgave me and we had a rhum coke somewhere in the Mozambique of my imagination. I was disappointed with myself, so sad, but I had nothing else to do.

Reality kicked in. My neck felt bare without the necklace. Little things do mean so much.

By midnight my brother was home and I entered the house. It was still raining. The power was out and so I lit some candles and sat down next to him.

"This has been the longest day of my life," I told him in my saddest, most tortured voice, not caring if he was listening or not. "Guess what? I lost my necklace somewhere in f—king Cubao."

Without looking up at me and turning the page of the book he was reading, he said: "You left it in the bathroom."

I must have been choking because all that came out of my mouth was something like, "Wha...Haaehhg...whha...hauhgggg..."

"Yep, you were in such a hurry this morning that you probably forgot," my brother very calmly explained. "I put it in your room. Hey, can I borrow P500?"

And sure enough, there it was. Dr. Muhata was smiling at me in the shadows and saying, "Gotcha!"

And that was the end of my terrible/wonderful day.

That night, I double-tied the knot of my necklace and hung it around my neck. Just to be sure. And I got into bed.

I didn't care if it was the wrong side, or the right one. There are no wrong or right sides. It all ends well, anyway.

Kala Barba, 22, describes herself as a poet, pilgrim and a collector of sunsets. She's a UP College of Fine Arts graduate and works as a graphic artist in an Internet online magazine company but will soon be in Jordan to ride camels.

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A repeat of Senate impeachment trial

THE FILIPINO people were once again treated to a circus in the Senate. It was supposed to be a hearing on the accusations against Sen. Panfilo Lacson. Instead, the senators were up to their old tricks, turning the table on the accuser and veering away from the real issue. It was a repeat performance of what we have seen in the impeachment trial.

According to reports, Col. Victor Corpus came prepared with witnesses and evidence but the panel chose instead to spend their time "investigating" and scrutinizing his persona, questioning his integrity and implying a political motivation on his part, or his being used by unseen hands.

It is foolish to think that Corpus would put his military career on the line for nothing. What good would it do him to implicate public officials in high places? The lame excuse of a "demolition job" being waged against accused politicians is getting to be old hat. It is becoming nauseating.

The people deserve to know the truth. We are sick and tired of partisan politics. It will do this country a lot of good if our politicians set aside party affiliations, cooperate with the leadership and do the jobs they are paid to do. A "responsible opposition" as they put it, is one which seeks to promote the common good rather than one's personal agenda.—**MILAGROS KLEIST, 70 F Binictican Drive, Subic Bay Freeport, Olongapo City**

Exorcising the demons of Plaza Miranda

IN HIS memoirs, "A Journey of Struggle and Hope," former Senate President Jovito Salonga charges communist leader Jose Ma. Sison, of masterminding the 1971 Plaza Miranda bombing. The purpose, he said, was to intensify the conflict between President Marcos' Nacionalista Party and the opposition Liberal Party and to enhance the prospects of a military takeover, thereby pushing the moderates to the Left and strengthening the New People's Army.

The victim who suffered most was Salonga whose survival was nothing short of a miracle. He was maimed and he lost one eye and the hearing in one ear. The grenade explosion killed nine persons and injured more than 100 others.

I was a fellow survivor of the Plaza Miranda carnage on Aug. 21, 1971. As the LP proclamation rally emcee (and candidate for councilor of Manila), I was sitting only two and a half meters away from Salonga, when the first explosion happened. Pandemonium broke and I found myself running toward my son Alex who was seated on the third from the last row at the other end of the stage, beside John Osmeña (another senatorial candidate), when the second blast came. I sustained shrapnel wounds in the face and arms.

For more than three decades, there was no doubt as to who perpetrated the dastardly act. Like Salonga and my fellow survivors, I have also shared the common perception that it was Marcos who plotted to wipe out the opposition. It was the most logical explanation at the time.

Salonga's revelation exculpates Marcos and his family on the Plaza Miranda tragedy and drastically revised history. The book was based on "The Red Revolution," another book published by Washington Post journalist Gregg Jones in 1992. Jones claimed it was Sison who plotted the bombing based on the accounts of Victor Corpus, a well-known Philippine Military Academy cadet who defected from the military to join the NPA, Jones' travel with NPA units in Central Luzon and his interview with Sison in Amsterdam.

After a decade of thorough fact-finding and gathering of evidence from independent sources, his partymates as well as first-hand information from Sison's men who actually implemented the carnage, Salonga now comes up with his book validating Jones' claims and repudiating the widespread belief that it was Marcos who was behind the carnage. The available evidence points to Sison, chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front, as the "principal author" of the Plaza Miranda tragedy. Salonga finally comes to terms with the truth which to the public eye, is "intellectual honesty of the highest order."

Very few personalities can write scholarly and credible memoirs. Not too many authors can write history not only because it entails voluminous research work and documentation. Salonga, at 81, a man of unimpeachable character and integrity and a highly respected professor of law, belongs to this class. He can write and rewrite history with authority and remain unchallenged, save by a few who have their own political agenda. A classic case of "the singer, not the song."

Salonga's book, "A Journey of Struggle and Hope" exorcises the demons of Plaza Miranda: the recriminations, the drastic alteration of the Philippine party system, the triumph of half-truths and untruths, and the jolting reality that the serious threat to democracy stays. Meanwhile, Philippine politics goes through all the motions—denials, more recriminations, more revelations—who knows? Whatever they are, they will become an irrevocable part of history which, in the end, will be the judge.—**MEL LOPEZ JR., former mayor of Manila**

Corpus trying to make a difference

COL. Victor Corpus says that national security, in its fullest sense, is in peril.

Criminals in disguise occupy high positions of power. Evidence allegedly exists linking Sen. Panfilo Lacson, ex-President Joseph Estrada and their extensive networks in politics, business and media to the illicit drug trade. Because of people like them, more people are succumbing to the lure and corrosive effects of dangerous drugs.

Corpus prefers to disclose the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' findings to the Senate, and use it as a forum to ferret out the whole truth. The skeptics, on the other hand, say Corpus has nowhere to turn to except the court of public opinion. Our political, judicial and social institutions are unreliable. Day one in the Senate last Friday was an ugly spectacle and the investigation will lead nowhere.

It's too early to tell, but they have a point. Will the Senate opt for petty self-importance or rise to greatness? It's safer to anticipate its behavior on the basis of its track record than on wishful thinking.

In any event, I think Corpus' disclosures will end up in court. And all good Filipinos will just have to link up to ensure that our investigators, witnesses, prosecutors, judges and jailers remain honest and get at the truth.

In taking responsibility and showing commendable leadership, Corpus embodies the ideals that made Edsa I and II possible. I have no doubt that Corpus is sincerely trying to make a real difference in the nation's life. Putting his neck and career on the line makes the purity of his cause all the more credible.

The public that cares for truth and justice can do no less. If society is to reinvent itself into a nation of strength and purpose, the only way is to dare to win.—**RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III, 63 9th St., Quezon City**

Respect is earned

OUR illustrious senators lost their cool when witness Angelo "Ador" Mawanay gave a direct answer to a provocative question that they themselves asked. The witness might have perjured himself and the senators could get back at him later, but they decided that punishing the impertinent witness for impugning their honor was a higher priority than the graver issues involving one of their kind.

Similarly, the questions on the intelligence activity of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines should have been set aside because the more important issue was the very serious accusations against one of the Senate members which was the objective of the hearing.

Instead, the senators over-reacted by detaining the witness for telling what he claims to be the truth, which I do not believe myself; and to further show the absurdity of their action they ordered the witness to recover the evidence of his allegations. While inside the detention cell?

The senators accused Mawanay of having selective memory and yet Corpus who made sweeping derogatory statements about the Senate members and the judiciary was not detained for his contemptible remarks. Fair?

The other half of the "*balato* twins," the dancing queen, tried to pull the same trick she pulled during the impeachment trial by picturing Corpus as insane. Rather than confronting the accused to unravel the truth, she preferred to destroy the credibility of the accuser. Why? So, the accused goes scot-free? And to think her brother Ninoy died fighting for the truth!

But, the height of the *zarzuela* was the rally-round-the-flag call of Sen. Robert Jaworski to Sen. Ralph Recto. Following his usual rambling speech, Jaworski wanted the new senator to close ranks, not criticize, and keep his mouth shut. Nothing could be clearer to the perception of those who heard him say this that this Senate is headed for another attempt at a cover-up like what happened in the impeachment proceedings.

The senators are enraged by what they perceived as attempts to cast doubts on the integrity of that institution. Who would not? But first they should remove the doubts they are creating for themselves. Respect for the integrity of the Senate is earned. They themselves should clear the air of suspicion.—**CESAR M. DE LOS REYES, 45 Fordham St., White Plains, Quezon City**

Shameful Senate hearing

THE CENTURION-STYLE of interrogation by most senators of Col. Victor Corpus and Ador Mawanay last Friday showed viewers why they should avoid appearing at a Senate hearing. How can we expect anyone to testify in the Senate after what we saw?

We agonize and deeply feel for Corpus, and most especially for Mawanay and his family. They—who risked their lives and those of their families in doing what they thought was best for their country—in a tragic twist of fate found themselves the target of the senators, the accused and not the accuser.

Mawanay's detention raised many nagging questions in the people's minds. If Mawanay were a prominent man, a scion of a politician, would he have been detained so fast? During the infamous impeachment trial last year, when Chavit Singson did not have some documents ready, he was given ample time to produce them. And what about the hapless Mawanay, whom Sen. Loren Legarda referred to as "that character" or "Pinocchio"?

Is this not a clear case of double standard for the rich and the poor, for the privileged and the ordinary people?

Don't the powers of the senators emanate from the people? And their salaries and perks from the people's taxes? Why, then should the Senate act like an old boys' club, as shown by Sen. Robert Jaworski's irresponsible words to Sen. Ralph Recto, when the latter questioned the senators' authority to have Mawanay detained? "Why are you questioning? You are now a senator, a member of the Senate," said the basketball-star turned senator of the public.

Then Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta asked the cool and humble Corpus if he had been "talking with the trees," insinuating that something was wrong with him. That was totally out of line.

We categorically state that we talk with the living things around us in our daily prayers to God for our people, and for politicians like her and the others in that imperious Senate hearing to serve only our country and the people's interest.

In alliance with all freedom-loving Filipinos—with Katotohanan, Bayan Muna, RAM, YOU—we express our wholehearted support for Corpus and Mawanay, and denounce the unjust, dictatorial detention of Mawanay.

We thank God that after Singson, Corpus and Mawanay were sent to us during these challenging period in our lives and made instruments in our crucial task of resurrecting our beloved land.

Mabuhay kayo, Col. Victor Corpus and Ador Mawanay!—**ELVIE PUNZALAN-ESTAVILLO, CELIA V. GUZMAN, MICHAEL LICHAUCO, BABES VELEZ, BRENDA DELA CRUZ, OPHIE STA. ANA, CION GONZALES, 47 Ponce, SLV, Makati City**

ROTC can be changed to civics course

IS it not possible to reorient the Reserve Officers Training Corps? That is what I would suggest.

The Commission on Higher Education could transform the military program into a course in civic consciousness and preparedness. Instead of pure military training, the program can be divided into four subject areas that address urgent and long-term civic and patriotic concerns. Each area can be allocated one semester each for a total of four semesters.

Part I, in the first semester, could deal with cultural and environmental protection. This will teach proper attitudes and affirmative action related to protecting flora and fauna, preserving cultural and historical heritage, garbage disposal, etc. It will include instruction on problems and laws on our cultural and historical heritage and the environment and coordination with government agencies and NGOs.

Part II, in the second semester, could deal with disaster preparedness and assistance. It will seek to develop citizen preparedness in times of natural and man-made disasters. It could include instruction and training in first aid, radio communications, life-saving techniques, etc., whichever is necessary and feasible.

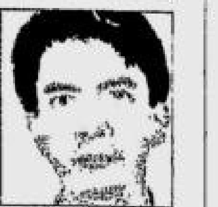
Part III, in the third semester, could deal with the general theme of *bayanihan* on community problems. This will include values orientation on the most serious problems now affecting many communities, namely drug abuse, graft and corruption, human rights offenses, and, specifically in major urban centers, violation of traffic rules. There will be lessons on laws governing drug abuse, corruption, traffic, etc.

Part IV, the last semester, could be a choice between military training or community service. The military training will not only include its basic physical and technical components but also values orientation on sovereignty and human rights. Community service could be carried out in coordination with any government agency in the line a student prefers such as health, traffic enforcement, cultural preservation, etc.

Transforming the ROTC into a civics course may be easier said than done since it would require competent personnel and appropriate facilities. But its benefits will certainly be immeasurable as it develops patriotic consciousness and civic preparedness, which was apparently the original idea behind the ROTC during Commonwealth times.—**FERDINAND C. LLANES, Department of History, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City**

Tagalog through the centuries

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

HOW did Tagalogs count in the 17th century? You'd think, well, just like we do today: *isa, dalawa, tatlo*, etc.

That commonsensical answer is only partly right. I checked the Vocabulario Tagalo, a Tagalog-Spanish dictionary dating back to 1624 and found the numbers were pretty much the same except for some variations in spelling ("*dalaua*," "*ualo*" and "*saampouo*").

Besides these spelling variations, the dictionary did reveal other differences. It didn't occur to me, until I read Vocabulario Tagalo, why we say "*labing-isa*" for 11. To create numbers beyond 10 in old Tagalog, you used the suffix "*labi-*," which means "more than." So, "*labin-isa*," or the No. 11, means "one more than 10" while "*labin-walo*," "eight more than 10" gives us 18. It gets more complicated when you get to the hundreds but the early Tagalogs managed that quite well. *Labi sa daan isa* was "one more than one hundred" or "101." Count on to "*labi sa daan sampouo*" for "110" then draw a deep breath to say "*labi sa daan labin-isa*" or "eleven more than a hundred."

I'm going to stop counting here and explain what I'm trying to do. I had to give a talk the other day at the Filipinas Heritage Library on the evolution of Tagalog and while doing background research, I realized that so little had been written about how Tagalog has evolved across the centuries. What has been written appears in inaccessible academic journals or books so I thought of doing a summary in non-technical language.

Why bother to trace origins, you may ask? Well, because it's National Language Week and the national language, like it or not, is Tagalog-based. A more important reason though is that by understanding the origins and evolution of Tagalog, we'll see how it's always been a rather cosmopolitan language, borrowing words left and right. This extensive borrowing means a search for "pure Tagalog" (or "pure Filipino") will be futile and silly.

Let me point out that we shouldn't get an inferiority complex because of this penchant for borrowing words. Languages are like living organisms, their vigor coming from interactions with other languages. English itself is a hybrid language filled with loan-words from all over the world, reflecting how original English speakers explored and colonized the world.

This takes us to the third and most important reason for tracing Tagalog's, or any language's, origins. A language's evolution tells us of the kinds of social and political relationships within one culture, as well as between cultures. I'm not referring to colonialism alone. We'll see how linguistic analysis can shed light on what day to day life was like among early Tagalogs.

Linguists are able to draw family trees of languages, and determine which ones are older, by comparing words, across languages and across time. In recent years linguists have started working with geneticists: putting linguistic data together with information about the DNA of different groups may give us a family tree that accounts for both biology and culture. But that's for a column maybe five years from now. Let's concentrate now on what we know about Tagalog.

Linguists classify Tagalog as part of a huge Austronesian (or, to use an older term, Malayo-Polynesian) family with more than 1,200 living languages. The earliest Austronesian families probably emerged from New Guinea and then spread out across a large geographical area.

Today, Austronesian languages are found from Taiwan in the north down to New Zealand in the south. Austronesian languages stretch eastward across the Pacific, to include the Hawiian islands and on to Rapa Niu (Easter Island) off the coast of Chile. West of the Philippines, we don't find Austronesian languages except, curiously, on the island of Madagascar off the coast of Africa, because many centuries back, the island was settled by people originally from what is Indonesia today.

The Austronesian family has several branches, including a large Philippine division with more than a hundred languages. (The Summer Institute of Linguistics, a missionary group that specializes in translating the Bible, counts 171 languages, excluding dialects, for the Philippines.) The number of languages reflects our tendency toward "tribal fission"—early settlers were nomadic and constantly splitting into new groups. When two groups are isolated from each other—often by geography, as in the case of the Philippines with our islands and mountain ranges—they develop new words, diction, accents and intonation, grammar.

Initially, the variations may be minor—for example, the difference between Manila Tagalog and Batangas Tagalog—which means we now have separate dialects. Eventually, however, the differences become more radical, making it difficult for two groups to understand each other, as in the case of Cebuano and Tagalog. We now have two separate languages rather than just dialects.

Tagalog is a fairly young language, not more than a thousand years old. It belongs to a "Central Philippine" group, bearing more similarities with languages in the Visayas than those of Luzon (e.g., Ilokano and Kapampangan). Linguists say the Visayan languages are older than Tagalog so we can conclude that today's Tagalogs are descended from settlers who originally came from the Visayas. Eventually, the settlers' Visayan-based language evolved into Tagalog, new words being coined, others borrowed from the settlers' new neighbors, for example, the Kapampangan.

Through the centuries, Tagalog absorbed many words from other non-Philippine languages, reflecting the extensive contacts that came with trade and, later, colonization by Spain and the United States.

We'll continue with this linguistic tour next Tuesday but here's something to keep you busy: How would a 17th century Tagalog have said "722 million dollars," the amount of money Ping Lacson and Erap are said to have salted away in the United States?

* * *

Answers and comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

What's in it for lawmakers?

THE SCHEDULED budget hearing on the proposed 2002 national budget in Congress will be a good opportunity for grandstanding by some lawmakers, who as history would show, raise questions that have no relevance to the subject at hand.

The likes of Rep. Aniceto Saludo of Southern Leyte could use the forum to call for a congressional inquiry into telecommunication companies, which according to him, have violated some provisions of the Constitution and their franchises.

What's the catch? Why is it that some of our lawmakers are poking their fingers into telecommunication firms like PLDT, Nextel, Globe and Smart? What's in these companies that we don't know?—**EDWARD P. LAGRAMADA, 6134 G T. de Leon Rd., Valenzuela, Metro Manila**

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Top Russian politicians linked to money laundering

MOSCOW—Former prosecutor general Yuri Skuratov has named the top-ranking politicians whose alleged dealings in GKO bonds had triggered the 1998 financial crisis in Russia.

Both daughters of former president Boris Yeltsin, two then deputy prime ministers, Anatoly Chubais and Viktor Serov, former foreign minister Alexei Kozyrev and five deputy finance ministers were on the list discovered by the prosecutors in the course of investigation, Skuratov claimed.

However, neither Yeltsin nor former prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin featured in the list, Skuratov added.

"Some 45,000 people were dealing in GKOs, including crime lords and oligarchs," Skuratov told the Argumenty i Fakty weekly, saying he was convinced that the bonds served as "a giant laundering machine for dirty money."

The GKO bonds, on which Russia defaulted, offered high yields of up to 140 percent shortly before the crisis at a time when inflation was 11 percent.

"Those who had access to details on GKO bonds sold their knowledge, leaking that insider information to their friends, to the West," Skuratov said.

As an example, Skuratov cited members of the so-called Harvard Project, whom he accused of using the US taxpayers' money to buy GKO bonds, and the fate of the last IMF tranche to Russia.

The $4.8-billion tranche was largely pocketed by Russian officials, Skuratov charged, adding however that the International Monetary Fund could have expected such a result.

"The Fund shouldn't have given that money, because it was not confirmed by the parliament. It was granted illegally, and dealt with the same way," Skuratov said.

Most of the tranche money was distributed among 18 Russian banks, one of which at least was controlled by Yeltsin's entourage, the former firebrand prosecutor alleged.

Skuratov was suspended by Yeltsin in February 1999 shortly after the prosecutor's office launched a series of corruption investigations into the Kremlin. *AFP*

THERE THEY GO REUTERS

Camel trainers scamper out of the way of camels and their young jockeys from the Gulf Cooperative Countries (GCC) taking part in a race at Nad el Sheba track in Dubai, Aug. 21. Camel racing is very popular among GCC nationals and tourists.

Taiwan president tells Japan: Face up to past

TAIPEI—Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian entered a furore surrounding a controversial Japanese school history textbook for the first time yesterday, urging Japan to face up to its past.

"There is no excuse to legitimize wars," Chen told a visiting group of Japanese parliamentarians, according to a presidential office statement.

"These countries should take full responsibility," Chen said.

Taiwan has been less strident over the textbook row than other Asian countries, notably China and South Korea which have made their fury clear in public statements.

The Taiwanese foreign ministry last month urged Japan not to distort history, and the president until now had stayed silent on the issue.

Chen insisted that "school textbooks should faithfully depict history and must not be distorted."

Regional outrage over the textbook, which allegedly glosses over Japanese wartime and colonial atrocities, was compounded this month when Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visited a controversial war shrine.

Japan's government has refused Asian demands to revise the textbook after approving its use in junior high schools.

Chen said Tokyo should respect the feelings of people in neighboring countries that fell victim to Japanese aggression before and during World War II.

The recent protests "should not be interpreted as over-reactions," the president said.

Taiwan was a Japanese colony for 50 years until the end of the war in 1945. *AFP*

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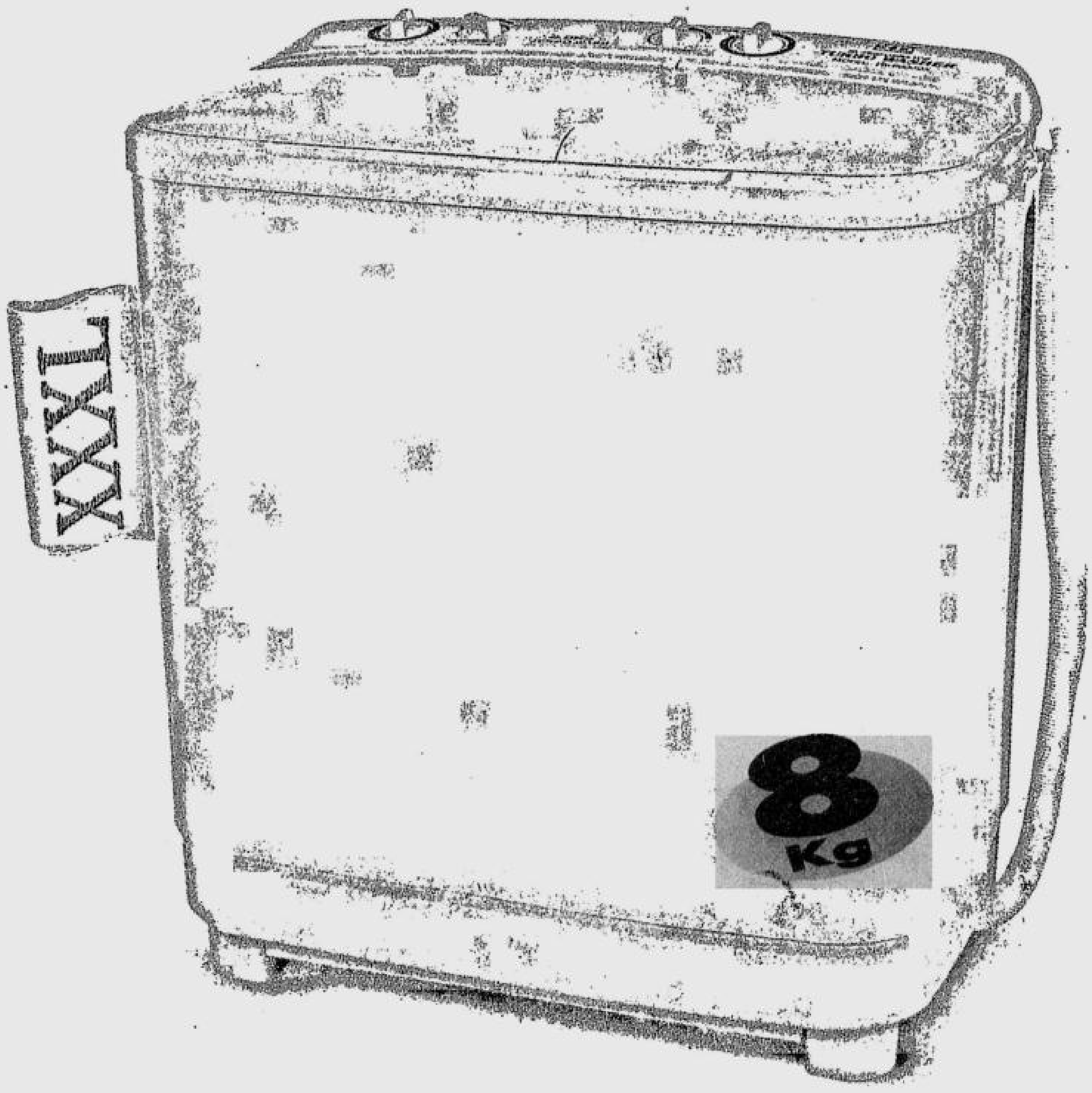

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Nuke-fusion breakthrough reached

PARIS—Japanese and British physicists reported Thursday they had carried out experiments pointing to a new way of achieving nuclear fusion, the elusive goal of cheap, abundant and safe energy.

Fusion entails the release of energy from combining two heavy forms of hydrogen—deuterium and tritium, which can be garnered from plentiful, naturally occurring resources.

Harnessing this power has obsessed scientists for more than a quarter century, a period in which oil shocks, the Chernobyl disaster and global warming have driven home the problems of fossil fuels and nuclear fission.

But the vision has always been clouded by technical problems. So far, fusion has only been achieved for a maximum of one second in laboratory conditions, and with a disappointingly low energy return.

The phenomenon is sparked at temperatures beyond 100 million Celsius, which means a lot of energy is needed to get it going.

But in research published in Nature, the British science weekly, a 20-member team led by Ryosuke Kodama of Japan's Osaka University report on an innovation that, they hope, may get round some of the biggest problems.

Their approach enhances a technique called inertial confinement fusion (ICF).

Under conventional ICF, a solid sphere of deuterium and tritium just a few millimeters in diameter is compressed and ignited by a laser beam, and the reaction of the two hydrogen isotopes causes a burst of energy.

The idea is that the energy chamber is continuously fed with these tiny fuel balls to produce repeated micro-explosions, rather like a car's internal combustion engine.

But the little spheres have to be extremely smooth and accurately machined for this to work; fusion is only possible using ultra-powerful and precise lasers; and the energy yield is disappointingly low.

Kodama's so-called "fast ignition" technique uses a hollow fuel ball placed next to a hollow metal cone.

The first step is to direct laser beams at the ball for one nanosecond, causing it to implode into a cloud of charged particles called plasma.

As the compression peaks, another, more powerful laser sends a pulse inside the metal cone, directed toward its apex.

Its energy focused by the cone, the beam ignites the plasma and sets off the fusion reaction.

Because the sphere is hollow, much less energy is needed to ignite it compared with the traditional ICF method.

In theory, the yield—the energy output from the fusion compared with the energy needed to cause it—could be as much as 300 to one.

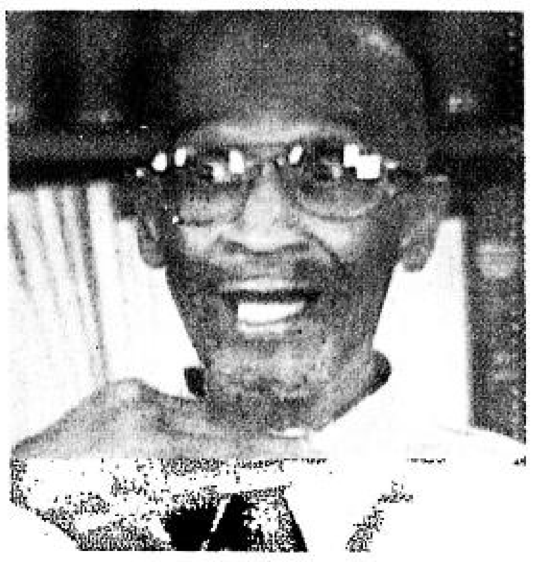
That compares with hopes of achieving a yield of 15 to one when stadium-sized facilities, called tokamaks, are completed in France and the United States.

Kodama's experiment comprised a polystyrene shell coated with deuterium as the fuel, and gold for the hollow cone.

"Our approach... permits efficient compression and heating to be carried out simultaneously, providing a route to efficient fusion energy production," his team said.

Although his is a small-scale test and many more experiments are needed, the results are "promising," commented Michael Key, a fusion expert at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California.

"Stepping up to megajoule laser drivers, it might even lead to a 300-fold energy gain, and could initiate serious efforts worldwide to produce fusion energy by fast ignition," Key told Nature. He cautioned, however, that the history of fusion energy was littered with false dawns. *AFP*



ARTIFICIAL heart patient Robert Tools.

His heart's not beating, but he's well

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—The first person ever to have received a self-contained artificial heart is alive and well and getting used to life without a heartbeat, he said Tuesday.

A smiling Richard Tools, 59, told reporters he had been at death's door before receiving the titanium and plastic pump known as AbioCor that moves the blood through his lungs and rest of his body.

"I asked for it because I had no more chances to survive," a thin but clearly happy Tools told reporters, adding that he had approached the Jewish Hospital in Louisville in search of treatment on the program, "because I was dying."

"As far as the feel, it feels a little heavier than my old heart. The biggest thing is getting used to not having a heartbeat. I have a whirring sound," he said.

The identity of Tools, a native of Colorado and former telecommunications worker, had been kept secret at the request of his family until Tuesday's press conference.

He had undergone open-heart surgery in 1992 after numerous cardiovascular incidents. He moved to Kentucky in 1996 in the hope of receiving a heart transplant. A diabetic, he also suffers from hypertension and chronic kidney problems.

Tools became the first person under the Jewish Hospital's program to receive the AbioCor heart pump.

Doctors who had given him just a nine-percent chance of surviving another month prior to the July 2 operation said early in August that the first 30 days after surgery had been "an overwhelming success."

However, he had to be given respiratory aid Aug. 13, as doctors sought to relieve him of infectious secretions that had gathered in his lungs provoking an attack of fever.

Jewish Hospital doctor Layman Gray, who was on the team of surgeons who operated on Tools to install the AbioCor Implantable Replacement Heart said Tuesday: "He is doing well." *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Sharon wants week of calm

JERUSALEM—Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday insisted that all hostilities must cease completely for seven days before he will start implementing the internationally approved Mitchell peace plan. "We have not given up on this test period of seven days, which was agreed with US Secretary of State Colin Powell," he said in a statement. The statement was issued amid media reports that Sharon had made no mention of the trial period during talks with German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, who is on a peace mission to the region. *AFP*

Charles remarriage backed

CAMILLA

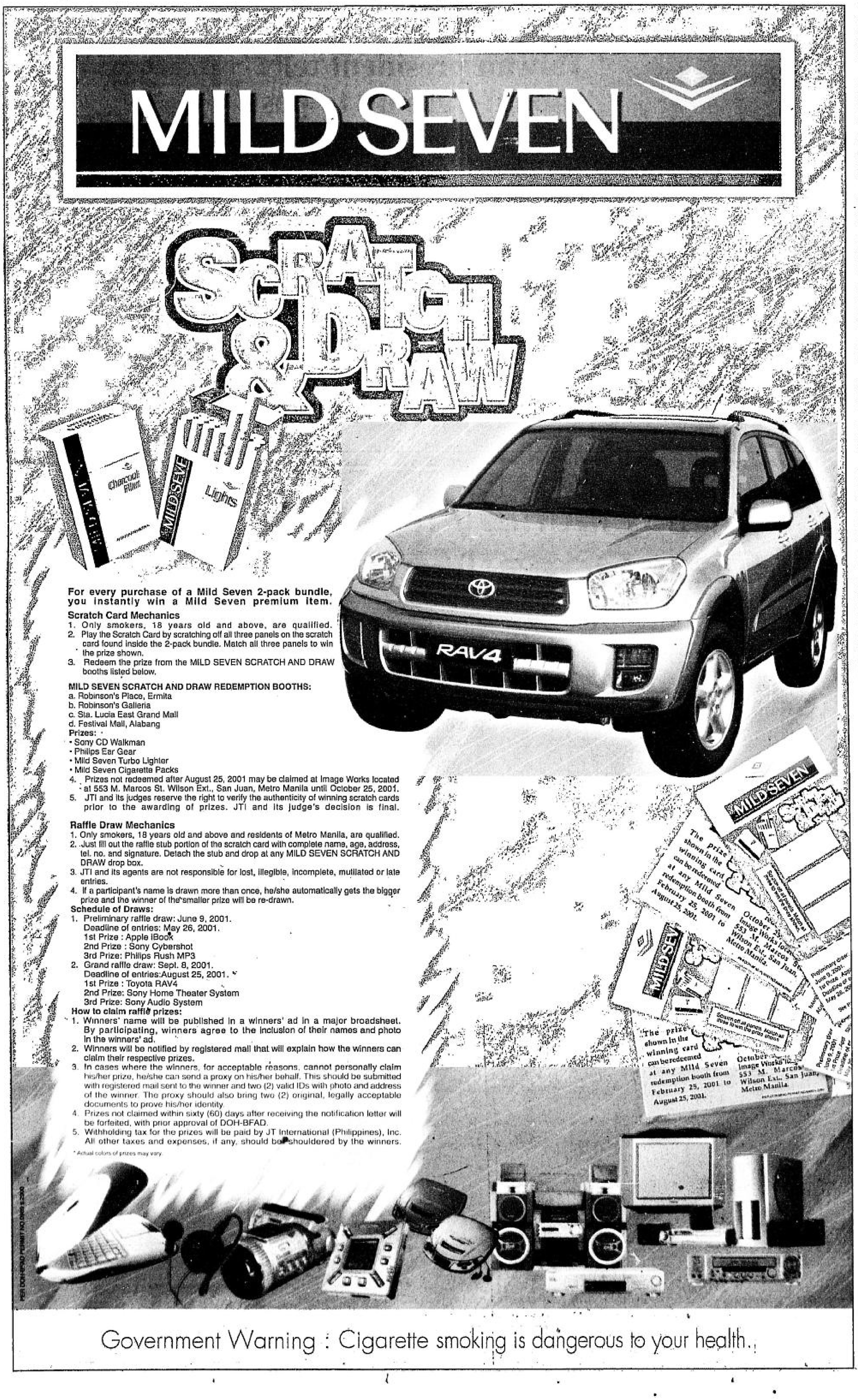
LONDON—Almost half of Britons want Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, to marry his long-term companion Camilla Parker Bowles, according to a newspaper poll yesterday. An ICM poll in the Guardian shows 43 percent of the population in favor of the couple getting married with 32 percent against. The findings are an almost complete reversal of opinion since a similar poll was conducted in August 1998, one year after the death of Charles' former wife princess Diana, when 46 percent were against remarriage and only 35 percent in favor. *AFP*

Christians, Hindus talk

NEW DELHI—Leaders of Christian and Hindu communities in India have renewed talks aimed at ironing out differences and preventing violence, church officials said yesterday. The Catholic Church met right-wing Hindu nationalist organization Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) Tuesday for the first time in three years. The meeting, the details of which were not disclosed until yesterday, was between an RSS delegation led by its chief K.S. Sudarshan and a team of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI) headed by Archbishop Oswald Gracias. "This meeting was held to remove misunderstandings between us and to put an end to both sides making allegations at each other," a CBCI spokesperson, Father Dominic Emanuel, said. "It is the beginning of a process." *AFP*

Royal auction a 'success'

SINGAPORE—British auctioneers yesterday declared the multimillion-dollar auction of assets seized from a disgraced Brunei prince a "major success" but said a second sale may be held for remaining items. George Leslie, a partner at London-based Smith Hodgkinson International Ltd., said last week's auction of assets from a company owned by Prince Jefri Bolkiah generated interest as far as Europe and the United States. The auctioned items came from Prince Jefri's flagship company Amedeo Development Corp., which collapsed under a mountain of debt three years ago and shook the oil-dependent sultanate located on Borneo island. Unofficial estimates put the proceeds from the six-day open bidding for lower-priced items at $7.6 million. *AFP*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* Actual colors of prizes may vary.

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Illegal immigrants in Malaysia face whipping

KUALA LUMPUR—Illegal immigrants in Malaysia face being whipped as well as fined or jailed under tough new laws, reports said yesterday.

Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said new legislation would be submitted to the Cabinet soon and illegal immigrants already in the country should leave now as there would be no amnesty period.

In remarks reported by all local newspapers, Abdullah said the proposals set out punishments for all parties involved, including employers and anyone harboring illegal immigrants.

The Star newspaper said it had learnt that a maximum of six cuts with a cane would be added to increased fines and jail terms, which now stand at maximums of $2,600 and five years.

Abdullah said there were about 600,000 illegal immigrants in Malaysia, mainly from neighboring countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines.

A total of 50,953 were detained nationwide in the first half of the year.

Abdullah said illegal immigrants not only contributed to the country's growing social problems and criminal activities but also to the spread of diseases and squatter colonies.

Malaysia is home to some 700,000 legal foreign workers, but a weakened economy has led to job cuts and calls for curbs on immigration. *AFP*

Mahathir: Italian cops more 'brutal'

KUALA LUMPUR—Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad yesterday defended Malaysian police accused of human rights abuses, saying Italian police were more "brutal" at the G8 summit in Genoa last month.

Mahathir was reacting to a report by the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, which found police guilty of using excessive force against anti-government protesters and "cruel and inhuman" treatment of detainees.

Mahathir said that in Genoa the Italian police not only fired shots at anti-globalization protesters but even drove a vehicle over a dead demonstrator.

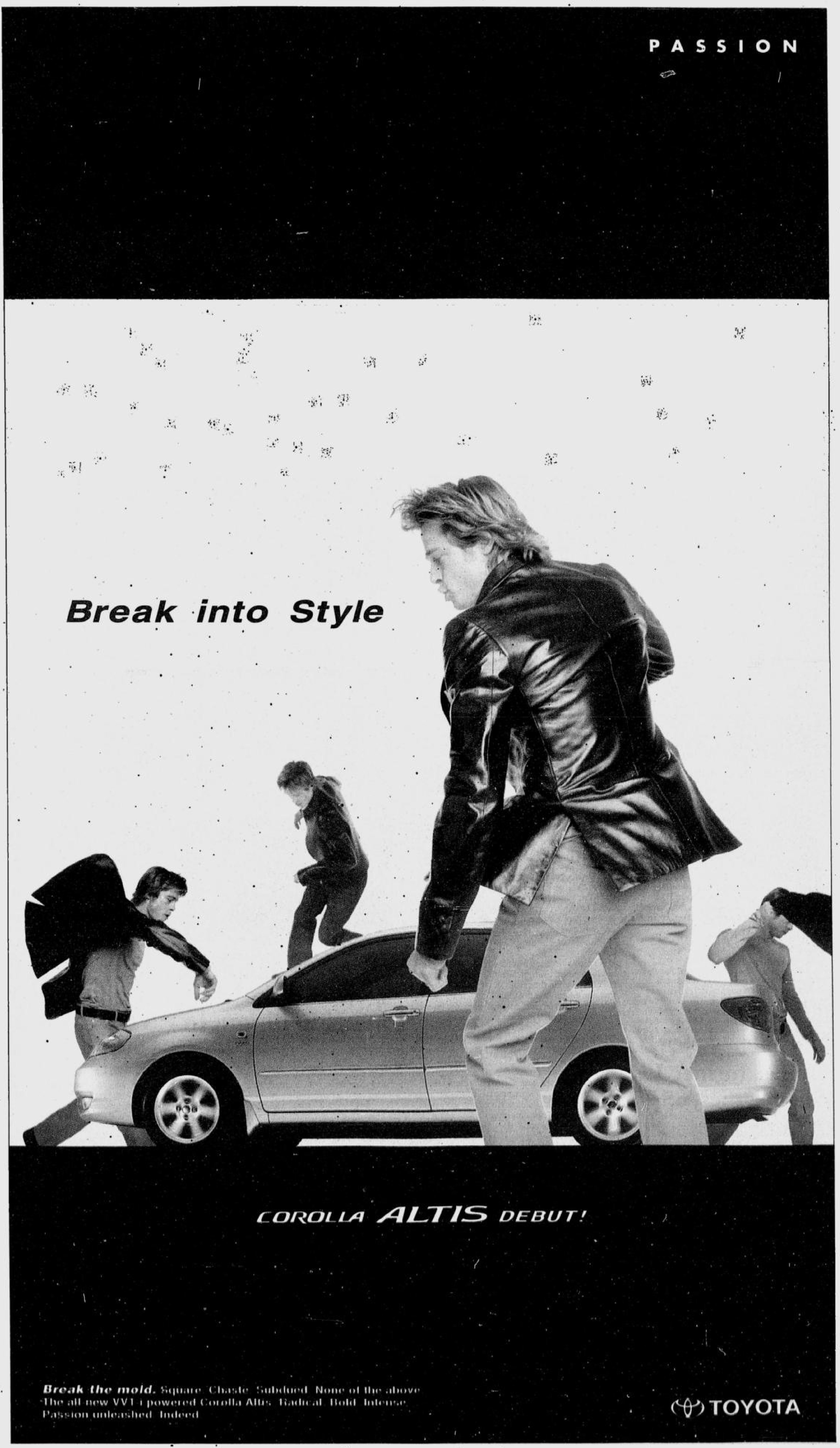
"Their police are brutal while our police are more considerate," Mahathir was quoted as saying by Bernama news agency on his return from an international conference in Uganda.

He said the commissioners, whose report covered police action against some 5,000 opposition demonstrators in Kuala Lumpur on Nov. 5 last year, were not thinking of Malaysia's national interests.

"At times the police have to resort to force because the demonstrators too use force," he said.

Mahathir, a regular critic of the west, said the rights group should not be influenced by western thinking and should have given weight to police evidence.

The government-backed commission released its report Monday after its first public inquiry since being formed in April last year. *AFP*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1-YEAR DELAY

Controversial dam complete

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

PANTABANGAN, Nueva Ecija—Overcoming a technical problem that hounded construction work, the facilities that will draw water from Nueva Vizcaya rivers to the Pantabangan Dam reservoir here are complete and ready for a test run.

What remains to be done in the build-operate-transfer component of the Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project (CMIPP) are "cosmetic works," according to Steve Lyons, project manager.

He said these include the painting and cleaning of some areas, especially those in the underground powerhouse of the project.

"We will now test-run the facilities," Lyons told reporters here on Tuesday.

Lyons said the system would be operational by October. He said the 26.75-kilometer long tunnel that was bored through the Caraballo mountain range, the hydroelectric power plant, the switchyard and some other facilities of the project would be harnessed for power generation and irrigation.

The project was supposed to be completed in July 2000. But construction work in the six-meter diameter tunnel went beyond its completion schedule when portions of the mountain range was found to be soft.

Engineers and workers found it impossible for the tunnel boring machine (TBM) to bore through the mountain.

Project proponents instead resorted to the more laborious and comparatively slow manual drill and blast work that caused the delay.

Robert Eugenio, vice president of the CE Casecnan Water and Energy Co. Inc. (CE-CWECI), the consortium that won the international bidding for the build-operate-transfer project, said the project costs $650 million (about P32.5 billion).

It will be operated by the company for the next 20 years and will be turned over to the National Irrigation Administration after that.

Eugenio said the CMIPP would divert the water flows from the Casecnan and Taan Rivers in Barangay Pelaway in Alfonso Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya, to the reservoir of the dam here.

Preparations are underway for the inauguration of the project on Sept. 28.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to be the guest of honor during the dam's inauguration.

But while the BOT project is now complete, it will take some time before 35,000 hectares of ricelands in Nueva Ecija are reached by irrigation water from the Pantabangan Dam. This is because the irrigation canals going to the targeted irrigation areas will be completed only in 2004.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern section of Luzon, Visayas and Eastern Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 25° Lo 17°
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 26°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Roxas	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 26°
Cebu	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 23°
Davao	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/23/01

ROUNDUP

Soldier goes berserk

COTABATO CITY—Two Army men were killed after a soldier went berserk inside the Army's 6th Infantry Division Headquarters in Maguindanao on Monday, shortly before AFP chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva arrived for a visit. Army Cpl. Zamora Olalisan, one of Moro National Liberation Front members integrated into the military, shot Sgt. Antonio Alcantara, Cpl. Adam Simpal and Pfc. Ali Salilaguia inside the personnel barracks of the 6th Scout Ranger Company for still unknown reasons. Before the shooting, Olalisan of Upi, Maguindanao, had a counseling session for a personal problem. Minutes after the session, he went to the barracks, drew his cal. 45 pistol and fired at the three. Salilaguia shot back hitting Olalisan several times. Alcantara and Olalisan were rushed to a hospital but both died later due to multiple wounds.
Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Sex traffickers warned

KABACAN, North Cotabato—Mayor Wilfredo Bataga warned residents, especially young women and children, against a sex trafficking syndicate operating here. The warning came after three armed men snatched a 24-year-old girl in broad daylight early this month. She was later freed without ransom. Bataga also urged the police to be on alert as the group could be preying on new victims.
Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Cop held for abduction

DAVAO CITY—Authorities arrested a police officer here for last week's abduction of Japanese national Takeshi Suda and his girlfriend Rose de Ocampo in Panabo City. SPO1 Arturo Lascañas, an agent of the elite Special Operations Response Team of the Davao City Police Office, was arrested after a sketch, based on the description of witnesses, was made of his face and closely resembled him. Senior Supt. Eduardo Matillano, regional police director, said Lascañas would be summarily dismissed if found guilty of the crime. The kidnappers later released the victims.
Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Orchestra in Dumaguete

DUMAGUETE CITY—Selected Negrenses will have a rare chance to watch the performances of the Peace Philharmonic Philippines Orchestra next month. Board member Mariant Escano Villegas said the 70-piece orchestra would perform for free at the Luce Auditorium on Sept. 1 and at the Lamberto Macias Sports and Cultural Center on Sept. 2. Villegas, who heads the Negros Oriental Culture and Arts Council, said these performances would be open only to previously identified individuals. Those interested in watching the performance may ask for invitations from the Sangguniang Panlalawigan or the Tourism Offices, Villegas said.
Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

Homily vs dengue

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Catholic Church here is using the pulpit to urge people to help get rid of breeding places of dengue-causing mosquitoes. During Sunday Mass, priests focused their homilies on the dangers and prevention of the spread of dengue or invited doctors to talk about it. Fr. Gamaliel Tulabing, Dumaguete diocese spokesperson, said city health officer Erlinda Cabrera sought the Church's participation in the campaign against dengue, which has killed six children and afflicted 307 persons as of July 27.
Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau

Opilas, former PC colonel, dies, 85

THE BUGLE call sounded for Col. Vicente Zamora-Opilas, retired Philippine Constabulary member, who died early Tuesday, Aug. 21. He was 85.

His remains lie in state at the St. Ignatius Chapel mortuary in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Interment will take place at noon at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Makati City after a morning necrological service in the chapel on Tuesday, Aug. 28.

A former deputy zone commander of the then second Philippine Constabulary Zone (II PCZ), the late colonel has been active in the Veterans' Federation of the Philippines (VFP) after his retirement from the military in 1970. He was the VFP's district commander of Pangasinan's sixth district, where he made a mark as a champion for veterans' rights, particularly in their quest for recognition of World War II service from the United States government. He was much admired for his conduct as an officer and as a gentleman.

Colonel Opilas began his military career in 1941, serving duty with the USAFIP-NL, the Philippine Army and the Philippine Constabulary. He held various posts, including public information officer, II PCZ chief of staff and provincial commander of Nueva Ecija province.

He is survived by wife Filipinas (nee Agullana), children Evelyn, Renato and Beth (nee Cadaoas), Lorna and Robert Manodon, Rodolfo, Maureen, Yvonne, Rommel Redentor and Zenaida (nee Dancel), and Raoul, grandchildren John Paul Amansec, Eileen and Vincent Opilas, Mae and Michelle Manodon, Patricia Noreen de Lara, and Jemima Opilas, sisters Nina Tanjoco and Leonor Torio, brothers Manuel and Domingo, sister-in-law Rosalinda (nee Ambat), and other relatives and friends.

Negros Oriental land size getting smaller–DBM

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—By the records of the Department of Budget and Management, the province of Negros Oriental is getting smaller. From a land area of 5,402.3 square kilometers, the DBM said the province has shrunk to only 5,070 square kilometers.

For this reason, Provincial Administrator Marilou Kho said the province's Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) this year was reduced by P21 million from P546 million to P525 million.

She said Gov. George Arnaiz was scheduled to meet with the DBM to press for the full release of the province's IRA share.

Kho said Arnaiz planned to cite the records of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources provincial office to show that the size of the province has remained untouched even with the conversion of the towns of Bayawan and Tanjay into cities earlier this year.

Kho said the DBM did not include Tanjay and Bayawan when it computed the province's IRA because these have been converted into component cities.

"But even if these towns were made cities, the land area (of the province) remains the same," Kho said.

With the conversion of Bayawan and Tanjay into cities, she added, the province's IRA should even increase because there are now fewer local government units that will share the IRA.

The IRA is determined by four factors—population, land area, equal share among all local government units and the guaranteed share of the cost of devolved functions.

Tacloban workers hold noise barrage

By Vicente Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—More than 100 City Hall employees here held a noise barrage at the city hall grounds yesterday to dramatize their protest against Mayor Alfredo Romualdez and two other city officials.

The protesters, who belong to the Government Association of Tacloban Employees (GATE), sought the ouster of city administrator Fionelio Mantilla and Ofelia Oliva, head of the Internal Audit Service, whom they blame for the non-release of their uniform allowance and other benefits.

The group said the noise barrage will continue until Friday, from noon to 1 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. City officials could not be reached for comment as of presstime.

The GATE's protest started on Monday when city hall employees wore black T-shirts. Several councilors also wore black ribbons in their right arm in support of the employees' mass action.

Aside from the councilors, the protesters received support from the members of the Provincial Association of Government Employees, their counterpart at the provincial capitol here.

"We will not stop our protest . . . until the 'Cebu imports' are deported and our uniform allowance and other benefits are released," said GATE vice president Susan Cordaño, referring to Mantilla and Oliva. *With a report from Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

HUMAN TECHNOLOGY CHARLIE SACEDA

War, fear of dying or pressure from superiors could not stop this soldier, who takes a rest from pursuit operations against Abu Sayyaf bandits, from getting in touch with his loved ones through one of the most popular means available now—cell phone texting.

'Hudhud' contest launched

KIANGAN, Ifugao—Ifugao's *hudhud* (epic), included in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's initial list of the world's "masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity," will finally find recognition with the launching of a contest meant to popularize the different epics.

The National Commission on Culture and the Arts launched this month a competition for the best three-act or full-length play based on the Ifugao *hudhud*.

The winners for the three categories (play for children, modern adaptation and theatrical rendition of the original epic) will receive P100,000 each. Deadline for submission of entries is on Oct. 15.

An NCCA statement said references that can be used in the contest are Amador Daguio's "Hudhud Hi Aliguyon," Francis Lambrecht's "Ifugaw Epic Stories: Hudhud and Critical study of the Hudhud of Dinulawan and Buganat," Harold Conklin's "Ethnographic Atlas of the Ifugao" and Antolina Antonio et al's "Antolohiya ng mga Panitikang Asean: Mga Epiko ng Pilipinas."

Manuel Dulawan, director of the Ifugao School of Living Traditions, said before contestants write their adaptations, they should realize that the *hudhud* is not only an epic but is also a manner of chanting.

He said there are many different stories and versions of the *hudhud*, peculiar to the villages in Ifugao. ***Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Farms to bloom in PNP camps nationwide

THE PHILIPPINE National Police will make available hundreds of hectares of land in its camps nationwide to be transformed into farms for policemen and their families.

Director General Leandro Mendoza, PNP chief, said in a statement that this was part of the PNP's tie-up with the Department of Agriculture on a project to increase policemen's incomes.

Some 115,000 police personnel nationwide and their cooperatives have started to benefit from various livelihood projects and "Gloria Labandera" rolling stores launched recently by the DA and PNP, Mendoza's statement said.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor and Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr., chair of the National Police Commission which oversees the PNP, said the livelihood programs are in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive to help improve the lives and incomes of the lawmen and their families.

An agreement signed by Lina and Montemayor also seeks to provide high-quality but cheap rice and other basic commodities at commissaries of the Philippine National Police through the National Food Authority (NFA) and satellite police camps all over the country.

The livelihood project also falls under the DA's Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) program and will provide policemen and their dependents with farm inputs, appropriate training and other support services so they can set up feasible agriculture and fishery projects.

Mendoza, Director Rex Piad, chief of the directorial staff and Director Reynaldo Velasco, chief of the directorate for comptrollership and agriculture officials are in charge of the livelihood project.

The livelihood effort would also set up a model farm in Parang, Maguindanao where police personnel and their families can earn additional income by planting trees, vegetables and raising livestock and fish.

Teenage suicide in Benguet alarms health officials

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Health officials here noted an alarming rise in suicide attempts among teenagers in Benguet in only a year.

These youngsters always ingest common farmland pesticides to try to end their lives, according to a health profile released by health officials here.

Rhoda Batanes, administrative officer of the Atok District Hospital, said the Department of Health tracked down 63 suicide attempts by teenagers who work in the farming towns of Atok, Buguias, Mankayan and Bakun, all in Benguet.

Atok cases dominated the Benguet profile, but the province's nine suicide cases placed third only to Kalinga and Abra, which posted 14 suicide attempts.

One of the victims in Atok died of pesticide poisoning.

Batanes noted that victims in the farming towns had indiscriminately used pesticides. These were teenagers who had lower threshold on stress, she said.

"These teenagers tried to end their lives by drinking pesticides. At first, their parents would think that their children would just threaten to end their lives and would realize later that they (the teenagers) were serious in ending their lives," Batanes said.

"They experienced lots of frustration from their parents who forced them to farm. They could not take the pressure from their parents, who ask them to work hard. (The pressure also comes) when they (the teenagers) are scolded."

In a study on pesticide poisoning in the Cordillera from April 2000 to March this year, Benguet ranks third among Cordillera provinces that have the most pesticide poisoning cases.

Benguet has nine cases, Kalinga 11, and Abra 14.

The study indicated that 63 victims in the Cordillera admitted taking pesticides "intentionally."

"They commit suicide because they cannot cope with realities at home. They are more pressured to work than study," Bonifacio Bengwayan, public information officer of the regional DOH here, said.

Bengwayan said most victims had always wanted to do other things aside from farming but could not because they were forced to work.

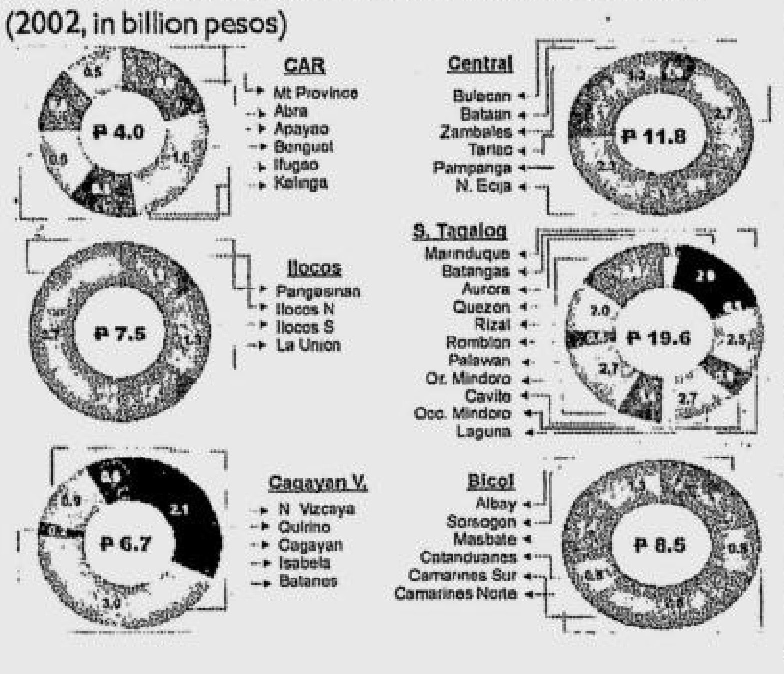
"The dreary manner of staying in the farm and tilling everyday could also make you (want to) get out (of) that kind of life," he said. ***Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Internal revenue allotment of Luzon LGUs*

(2002, in billion pesos)



* Excluding NCR

Source: Department of Budget and Management's Proposed 2002 Budget

In the proposed 2001 budget, the total internal revenue allotment for Luzon, reached P58.1 billion, up 29 percent from the 2001 allocation.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

STUDY'S FINDINGS

Hybrid rice fit for animals

By Dennis Maliwanag
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Hybrid rice has a poor taste, making it a good candidate for animal feeds in China where the variety was first developed, a collaborative study of civil society groups in Asia said.

"So it's ridiculous to claim that the hybrid tastes better than our native varieties," said Cris Panerio of the Los Baños-based Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (Masipag).

In the article "Hybrid rice enjoys brisk Baguio sale" published by the Inquirer on Monday, the Grains Retailers Confederation (Grecon) Baguio chapter said that consumers are patronizing hybrid rice because it has better quality than native rice varieties.

The crop was produced from a rice variety considered as China's lowest quality crop, making consumers despise the hybrid's taste, the study continued.

"In fact, much of the crop is purchased by the state (People's Republic of China) and a large part of the harvest is used in state programs to feed the urban poor, stored in the country's rice stocks, or used as animal feeds," according to the research paper "Hybrid Rice in Asia: An Unfolding Threat."

"Many of our traditional rice varieties have good quality incomparable to substandard hybrid rice," said Panerio.

But the most glaring drawback of the hybrid rice is that it is simply not intended for small-scale farmers.

Dr. S.S. Virmani, head of the hybrid rice program of the International Rice Research Institute admitted that, "This technology is not for farmers still struggling at the level of two or three tons."

"The cost of hybrid seed, being 10 to 15 times higher than that of ordinary seeds of rice, discourages poor farmers from taking advantage of the hybrid technology," it added.

Also, this variety loses its "hybrid vigor" after one planting season, putting a stop to the traditional practice of saving and exchanging seeds.

So, the biggest beneficiary of this technology would be the agrochemical companies involved in the hybrid rice seed industry in Asia.

In February 2000, Monsanto, the second largest seed company in the world, announced that it and other seed giants were pouring money into rice research because of the growing potential for hybrid rice, the study said.

"As intellectual property regimes allow companies to charge an additional 10 percent to 30 percent over the cost of the seed, in the form of royalties or license payments, the income opportunities for the industry are attractive indeed," according to the March 2000 study of six civil society groups in the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and Bangladesh.

"Hybrid rice is not about feeding people. It will only exacerbate problems of distribution and poverty by favoring wealthy farmers," said the study.

"The real motivation behind the development of hybrid rice is to create a rice-seed industry as a motor for the deeper industrialization of rice farming," it added.

Three hybrid rice varieties have already been released in the Philippines: Two from the Philippine Rice Research Institute and one from Monsanto's Agroseed, said the Asian study.

In 1997, hybrid rice was planted in around 500 hectares in the country and the volume was estimated to increase to 100,000 hectares in 2000.

Captured NPA child rebels develop close ties with Army

DAVAO CITY—More and more children have become close to the military after they were rescued from the New People's Army.

Ruel Lucentales, Department of Social Welfare and Development director for Southern Mindanao, said this was expected because the military keeps the child combatant in its custody longer than it should.

Under the rules, the military should turn over child combatants to the DSWD 24 hours after they are captured.

"That's the protocol but the military never really follows that protocol," he said.

Lucentales said Maj. Eduardo del Rosario, chief of the 73rd Infantry Battalion, had told him that they have "higher objectives" in delaying the transfer of the children to the DSWD.

"But I think they subject those children to tactical investigation," he said.

Lucentales said arrested child combatants are in dire need of attention, which the military could provide.

He cited the case of child combatants Ronald and Oni who developed a bond with elements of the 73rd IB because they were turned over to the DSWD a week after their arrest.

"We have already informed the higher office of this practice but we don't know if DSWD secretary (Corazon) Soliman already talked with Defense Secretary (Angelo) Reyes," he said.

The DSWD, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Department of National Defense, Department of Interior and Local Government and the Commission on Human Rights two years ago signed a memorandum of agreement that lists down the rules that they all have to follow regarding the handling of child combatants.

In that agreement, arrested child combatants should be immediately turned over to the DSWD.

He said they have five child combatants under their care since the parents are still not ready to take them back.

"That's also a problem. Even if the child is ready to go back, the parents are not yet ready to take the child in," he said.

Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Ping denies wiretaps, but still faces probe

(From page A1)

to the PAOCTF. He also denied that the men found guarding the equipment when it was seized on Monday were PAOCTF members.

"I don't wiretap. It is obvious the equipment is not in my possession. I don't think they can reopen (the investigation) or even charge me," he told the INQUIRER.

But Pimentel said there was a need for the Senate to tackle the issue.

"We have to put an end to this, it's so bad," he said of reports of Lacson's alleged wiretapping.

"All these things can be unearthed in a proper investigation," he said, adding that an "investigation would have to be done."

But he said that the move should come from the administration senators, since they were supposedly involved in efforts to gather information on the matter.

"There is supposed to be retrieval of surveillance equipment in the hands of former PAOCTF agents. We will have to establish first whether they are authentic," he said.

Administration Sen. Ralph Recto said he would also like to inquire into the matter, but said he would not file a resolution seeking a formal investigation, lest the opposition accuse him of playing politics.

But he promised to bring the matter up in today's joint hearing.

"It will come out even in the committee hearing because I'll ask police chief Mendoza about it," he said.

But in a separate interview, Senate President Franklin Drilon said he was not keen on the investigation, pointing out that the Senate is basically a legislative—not an investigative—body.

Jinggoy bugged

Lastimoso said the young Estrada had told him during a function in Malacañang in 1999 that Lacson was on his trail, a fact which he complained about to his father.

Estrada then chided Lacson for bugging his son, "causing a rift between the president and Lacson," Lastimoso said.

"Jinggoy told his father that even he was being bugged so it's possible that even then President Estrada was bugged," Lastimoso said at the Ciudad Fernandina Forum in Greenhills yesterday.

"Why, even I, the chief of the PNP that time, was being bugged. Who (could) stop them from bugging anybody?" he said.

THE MAN, who's the talk of the town, Senator Lacson being hounded some more by the media as more charges are being leveled at him.
JESS YUSON

Different bugs

Lastimoso said the bugging device used by the PAOCTF to monitor Jinggoy as well as other "potential enemies" was different from the one seized by the PNP in an entrapment operation on Monday.

He said the old device cost around P15 million and was procured using the huge intelligence fund of the PAOCTF before Lacson became PNP chief.

Lastimoso said the PAOCTF had asked for official permission to purchase bugging devices supposedly to use for surveillance on drug lords and kidnappers even during his term, but he said he did not give them the go-ahead.

"The purpose of bugging is so you can have a wealth of information that you can use to threaten or expose potential enemies," Lastimoso said. "It was not to monitor the drug lords, because they are the drug lords; and it's not for kidnappers because they are the kidnappers."

Legal action

The PNP has tapped a battery of police and private lawyers to prepare the criminal charges against Lacson and his men with regard to their culpability in alleged wiretapping activities.

Initial results show Lacson was the one who gave the orders to procure the P30-million state-of-the-art equipment, probers said.

"Documents provided by supplier Dean Edgar Ablan showed that official communications between the Armstrack Corp. and PAOCTF emanated from Lacson's office," said Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Region 3 director and former chief of the PNP Intelligence Group.

For this reason, Berroya said, apart from charges of perjury and illegal wiretapping, charges of malversation of public funds would also be filed against Lacson and his men.

This was confirmed by Director General Leandro Mendoza, PNP chief, who said that PAOCTF intelligence funds were used to procure the bugging devices.

"In this case, government funds were used not for the benefit of the public but for Lacson's and Erap's selfish and vested interests," Berroya said. "In the first place, placing the senator-judges, prosecutors, congressmen, big businessmen and members of the united opposition is not only deplorable but dangerous."

Mendoza said he had ordered the formation of a special task force that would continue gathering solid evidence against Lacson, composed of probers from the PNP-IG and Region 3, Mendoza said. He said the task force had to work "double time" because another set of similar devices was "on the loose" and in the hands of Lacson's close aide Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino.

Ablan, for his part, said he would cooperate fully with authorities.

Berroya said the lawyers were in the process of reviewing whether or not to consider Ablan, president of Armstrack, a suspect or a witness against Lacson and his men.

"While Lacson's men tried to clean up the files and delete the evidence, we found a way of retrieving them from the hard disk. For this reason, we will know in the next few days who else had been tapped, aside from the senators and others, at the height of the impeachment trial," Berroya said.

Ablan, he said, will testify that he witnessed a wiretapping incident when he saw PAOCTF men operating the devices aboard a Toyota Hi-Ace at the parking lot of Club Filipino, when former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson made his exposé in October.

No whitewash

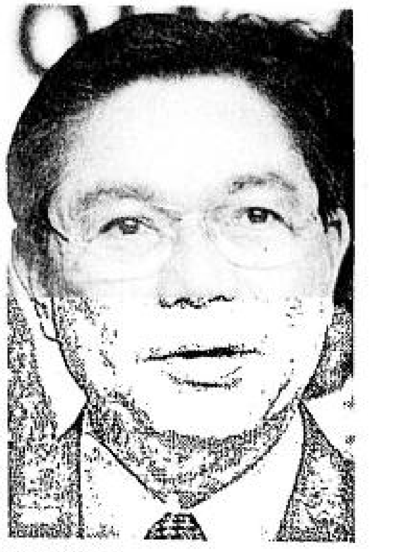
Militants called on the Senate to investigate Lacson anew for illegal surveillance and human rights violations following the recovery of monitoring and wiretapping devices allegedly purchased by the PAOCTF.

They also urged senators to relieve their colleague to allay fears of a whitewash.

"The capture of PAOCTF agents and bugging equipment confirms Lacson's depraved actions against the Senate in which he is now a member and the Filipino people who ousted President Estrada from power," Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said in a statement. ***With reports from Blanche Rivera, Christine Herrera and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez***

Were Dacer and Popoy bugged too?

By CARLITO PABLO



WYCOCO

DIRECTOR Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation said that the NBI is looking into the theory that publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and labor leader Filemon "Popoy" Lagman were subjected to electronic monitoring before they were killed.

"Our investigation indicates that there was telephone monitoring before these two killings," Wycoco said.

It was the first time that the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force has been linked to the murder of Lagman inside the University of the Philippines campus early this year.

"The killers were already waiting for Popoy as if they knew ahead where he was heading for," Wycoco said.

Wycoco said Lagman talked to an associate over his mobile phone about where he was going before he was eventually shot.

The same was true in the kidnapping of Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito, whose movements were apparently traced through Dacer's conversations over his mobile phone.

Wycoco said, however, that he is not implying that PAOCTF men were the same ones who slew Lagman.

The NBI, however, has filed kidnapping and double murder charges against several former PAOCTF officers and men including Lacson's most trusted aides, Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao, in connection with the Dacer-Corbito case.

The two officers had recently fled the country and are now believed to be in the United States.

Wycoco said the NBI is interested in looking into mobile phone numbers stored at a computer, which forms part of the bugging equipment seized in Pasig.

Wycoco said the record might show numbers used by Dacer and Lagman.

Mama mia, Italian stallions fear signoras

(From page A1)

have the women become that nearly 40 percent of 1,300 Italian men surveyed said they have sex with their wives against their will.

Of the men who are saying "no" to their partners more often, 43 percent said it was because of performance anxiety, half said it was because they were too stressed or tired and 5 percent said they just didn't want to have sex.

In Stockholm, two-thirds of 1,700 Swedish women who participated in a survey said it was a myth that men are keener on sex than women.

Eight out of 10 women said they would like to have sex more often and more than half said they had been unfaithful to their partners. The same proportion said they had had sex on a first date, the tabloid Aftonbladet reported.

Sixty percent of the women had tried anal sex and half of them said they did not want to do it again.

Asked to rank the most important qualities in a male partner, Swedish women listed style, looks, intelligence, money and influence. ***Reuters***

Gloria, Megawati agree to stop gun trade

MANILA and Jakarta have agreed guns are being smuggled from Mindanao into troubled Indonesian regions like Aceh and Irian Jaya, and Manila and Jakarta are working to stop the illegal trade.

Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri brought up the problem on Tuesday during bilateral meetings with her counterpart, President Macapagal-Arroyo, and other top Philippine officials.

Megawati left Manila on Wednesday after an overnight visit.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the two countries were forming a committee to activate a 1997 bilateral defense and security accord to address gun smuggling.

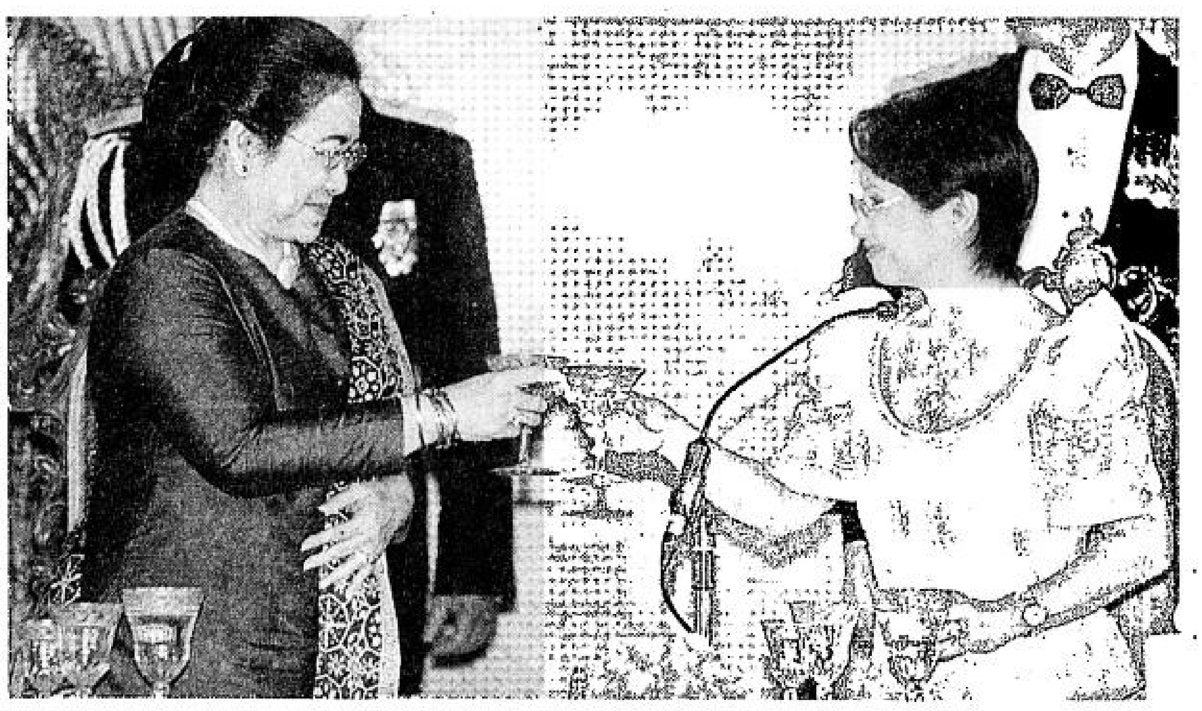
Golez said the firearms were being bought by unidentified Indonesian gunrunners in Mindanao, like Sitangkai Island, a smuggling haven, near the border with Malaysia and Indonesia.

The guns are then smuggled into problematic Indonesian regions like Aceh and Irian Jaya, which are wracked by separatist rebellions.

Golez said the guns were being sold to Indonesian separatist rebels and criminals.

He refused to provide other details but said the gun smuggling was not arranged by Indonesian and Philippine separatist rebel groups.

"This is plain, criminal gun smuggling. There is no ideology involved," Golez told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.



"SISTERS," President Macapagal and Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri drink to each other with good wishes during a state dinner at the Palace on Tuesday.
EDWIN BACASMAS

The problem is also a Philippine concern because firearms could be smuggled into the country from foreign sources, he said.

The proliferation of unlicensed firearms is a key security concern in Mindanao where many armed groups and Moro separatist guerrillas operate.

During the meeting, Indonesian and Philippine officials pledged to expand trading and further link their agriculture, tourism and fisheries.

Megawati pledged to continue to back peace talks between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front that has been waging a war to establish a separate Islamic state in Mindanao for the past three decades.

Indonesia has offered to host the talks. Jakarta earlier brokered and hosted talks between the Philippine government and the Moro National Liberation Front, which resulted in a 1996 peace accord.

The accord ended a quarter-century of fighting that killed more than 120,000 people in Mindanao.

Megawati, on her first foreign trip since becoming president following the ouster of Indonesia leader Abdurrahman Wahid, is scheduled to travel to Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Brunei, Singapore and Malaysia. ***AP***

Lead Eaga, Gloria urges Bolkiah

(From page A1)

Hanoi, the second leg of her journey to nine Asean countries.

Ms Macapagal was accompanied by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, Cabinet officials and a 50-member business delegation.

A welcome ceremony was laid out for Ms Macapagal at the palace where Bolkiah, accompanied by his two wives, conferred on the Philippine leader the "Most Esteemed Family Order Laila Utama, DK."

On the first day of her visit, Ms Macapagal also met with Filipino workers at the Jati Freedom Textile where they make up 40 percent of the workforce.

She told them of the government's plan to build 100,000 housing units for overseas Filipino workers.

Ms Macapagal is also scheduled to visit port facilities and petroleum fields in Brunei, a key oil producer and the world's fourth-largest producer of liquefied natural gas.

She is expected to attend a business lunch and visit the Brunei Museum before flying Friday to Singapore for a three-day visit.

Ms Macapagal said her trip to Singapore would focus on information and communications technology, a key sector driving the city-state's growth.

The Philippines is also a regional hub for computer software development.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona said Ms Macapagal would witness the signing of up to 12 memoranda of understanding, including one in which Singapore would help set up an information technology center in Manila.

Ms Macapagal said a tourism twinning arrangement would also be entered with Singapore during her visit.

Under the arrangement, "Singapore will help promote tourism to the Philippines not only among Singaporeans but also among third country tourists as a package with visits to Singapore," she said.

To facilitate the expected increase in tourism traffic, the Philippines has decided to permit a larger seating capacity for Singapore-Manila flights, Ms Macapagal said.

She is scheduled to hold talks with Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and speak at an investment forum where she is expected to invite business leaders to pump more investment into the Philippines.

Ms Macapagal will also inaugurate a center to upgrade the skills of more than 100,000 overseas Filipino workers in Singapore to prepare them for eventual reintegration into the Philippine workforce upon their return. ***With reports by Juliet Labog-Javellana and AFP***

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, August 23, 2001
20th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	*Jdg 11:29-39*
Gospel:	*Mt 22:1-14*

Jesus began to address the chief priests and elders of the people, once more using parables.

"This story throws light on the kingdom of heaven. A king celebrated the wedding of his son. He sent his servants to call the invited guests to the wedding feast, but the guests refused to come.

Again he sent other servants ordering them to say to the invited guests: 'I have prepared a banquet, slaughtered my fattened calves and other animals, and now everything is ready; come then, to the wedding feast.' But they paid no attention and went away, some to their fields, and others to their work. While the rest seized the servants of the king, insulted them and killed them.

The king became angry. He sent his troops to destroy those murderers and burn their city. Then he said to his servants: 'The wedding banquet is prepared, but the invited guests were not worthy. Go, then, to the crossroads and invite everyone you find to the wedding feast.'

The servants went out at once into the streets and gathered everyone they found, good and bad alike, so that the hall was filled with guests.

The king came in to see those who were at table, and he noticed a man not wearing the festal garment. So he said to him: 'Friend, how did you get in without the wedding garment?' But the man remained silent. So the king said to his servants: 'Bind his hands and feet and throw him into the dark where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Know that many are called, but few are chosen."

Commentary:

Today's parable sheds light on one of the paradoxes that both Jesus and the early Christian community were confronted with, namely the brazen unwillingness of many Jews to accept the invitation to a new and better relationship with God and the sometimes misplaced eagerness of newcomers to accept it. This new relation is depicted as a wedding banquet, an occasion of abundance and immense joy, in short a celebration of God's generosity. All are invited, but what is remarkable is that this invitation is by no means unconditional. The newcomers also have to grace the occasion by wearing proper attire. God's call is not to be taken lightly. The reading invites us today to give serious thought to the way we accept God's call.

We thank you Father for having called us to a new celebration of life. Grant that we may heed your call with gratitude and due respect.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

MERCANTILE LAW (CORPORATION LAW)—Rights of ownership of stockholder—The registration of shares in a stockholder's name, the issuance of stock certificates, and the right to receive dividends which pertain to the shares are all rights that flow from ownership. Respondent was able to establish *prima facie* ownership over the shares of stocks in question, through deeds of transfer of shares of stock of TCL Corporation. Petitioners could not repudiate these documents. Hence, the transfer of shares to him must be recorded on the corporation's stock and transfer book. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, TCL Sales Corporation v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. No. 129777, January 5, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Corpus promises 'surprise witnesses'

(From page A1)

the former police general.

He said his lawyers were still preparing a draft of the statement he wants to deliver in today's hearing. He also said he was prepared to present "surprise witnesses."

"*Abangan!*" Corpus teased reporters.

He appealed to senators to focus on the issues against Lacson.

"They should investigate Lacson and not me because it was I who investigated Lacson's activities," Corpus said.

Washington is expected to render within a month its official response to Manila's request for American authorities to summon the bank records of Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the United States, Reynaldo Wycoco, director of the National Bureau of Investigation, said yesterday.

"We are expecting their reply in the next 30 days," Wycoco said. "It's a matter of time before we can look at the bottom of this issue."

The request to subpoena Lacson's bank records was made by the Department of Justice to its counterpart agency in the United States.

Wycoco was interviewed yesterday after a fellowship meeting with the Association of General and Flag Officers in Camp Aguinaldo where the NBI chief fielded several questions by retired generals on the status of the government's investigation into Lacson's alleged multimillion stash abroad.

"It's ongoing and progressing well," Wycoco said of the probe, which he said is jointly being undertaken by the two governments under the RP-US Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty.

Wycoco told the retired generals that he supports Corpus' crusade against what the Isafp chief had called the creeping danger of narcopolitics.

"Let's all pray he succeeds for the nation's benefit," Wycoco said. "Unless the threat of drugs is not stopped, the future of our children will be in danger."

Responding to criticisms that Isafp has stepped beyond its mandate, Wycoco said the agency has enough leeway to conduct investigations into such issues such as drug trading if these affect national security.

Wycoco said Corpus possesses "timely and timeless idealism" and that no one can impugn his integrity.

Party decision

Senate sources claim to have overheard Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., the minority leader, warning Lacson against the possibility that he would only encounter "much humiliation" in the hearing.

But Lacson denied this.

But even opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon dismissed Lacson's claims that he was backing out because of a party decision.

"That is his choice," he said. "If he attends the hearing, the choice is his. I don't think the party could impose its will . . . it's his reputation that is at stake."

Lacson, who has been accused of engaging in money laundering, drug trafficking and other organized crime activities, stayed away from the first joint hearing conducted last Friday, citing *delicadeza.*

But in several radio interviews yesterday morning and at the Senate media briefing yesterday afternoon, Lacson said he was raring to finally confront Corpus and Angelo "Ador" Mawanay, the witness who claims he was a civilian agent of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

"It's about time I confront my accusers, the way Sen. Loren Legarda and Noli de Castro did," he told newsmen.

He said he even lined up a battery of questions aimed at punching holes on the claims of Mawanay.

"I'm going to confront him with his own statements. For example, he claims in his statement that he saw me on some specific dates (but) when I checked my passport, I found I wasn't here. I was abroad, so how (could) we see each other?" he said.

He also challenged Corpus to "produce bank statements, bank records."

Lacson even said at least 10 witnesses will appear at the hearings of the Senate committees on public order and illegal drugs and national security and defense to complain about how Mawanay cheated them on car or cellular phone deals.

Focused discussion

Sen. Robert Barbers, who chairs the public order panel, said that in today's hearing he will keep the discussions focused on Mawanay's charges that PAOCTF men were engaged in illegal drug activities and money laundering.

"We expect more witnesses and evidence to come out," he said.

He said the mother and daughter of a certain Angelo Sy, who was allegedly ordered killed by suspected drug lord Kim Wong, will also appear in the hearing.

Lawyer Argee Guevarra said counsel for Mawanay will file a motion to inhibit the participation of eight senators who had ordered Mawanay detained and declared him a liar.

But Barbers said there was no way they could grant the motion. "That's absurd, there will be nobody left to investigate," he said.

US upset

Wycoco said he has yet to check the veracity of published reports yesterday (not in the INQUIRER) that the US Embassy in Manila is supposedly upset over disclosures to media of details of Lacson's bank records in the United States.

"The US government has always expressed its support (in the investigation)," Wycoco said.

Wycoco noted that the Isafp is coordinating with the US Customs Service while the NBI has separate arrangements with the US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Wycoco related that the NBI started its probe into Lacson's foreign bank accounts last March when Mary Ong, also known as Rosebud, exposed Lacson's involvement in organized crime activities like drug trafficking and kidnapping for ransom.

Ong was the former Chinese interpreter of the Lacson-led PAOCTF.

"She related to me the extent of the kidnapping, drug trafficking and other crimes committed by the PAOCTF so I wondered: Where could the fruits of the crime be?" Wycoco said.

Sin backs Ador: 'This is a fight against evil'

(From page A1)

ADMINISTRATION senators huddle around Majority Floor Leader Loren Legarda during a break in the Question Hour on Tuesday.

JESS YUSON

the Senate.

"God is with you. I will include you in my prayer every day. Feel free to come to me anytime . . . Don't entertain doubts. Don't be confused. It's a fight against evil. Continue fighting for the truth," Mawanay quoted Sin as telling him.

Fr. Carmelo Caluag, S.J. of the Ateneo de Manila University arranged the 30-minute meeting between Mawanay and Sin at Villa San Miguel.

Agents of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines escorted Mawanay who was accompanied by his wife May and children Mikmik, 7, and Misha, 5.

Mawanay said Sin blessed his family during the meeting that started at 8:45 a.m. and lasted until 9:15 a.m. He, in turn, kissed the cardinal's ring.

According to Mawanay, Sin recounted to him how he had given the same advice to then Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson before he exposed the so-called "Juetengate" scandal that led to the impeachment of then President Joseph Estrada.

"Cardinal Sin assured me of his full support. That was very reassuring. His blessings give me strength and courage to go on," Mawanay said.

Touched

He said he was "touched" when the cardinal described his decision to come out in the open as "a heroic act."

With Sin's blessings, Mawanay said he was ready to continue his testimony against Lacson at the Senate hearing.

"I am prepared to face Ping in whatever forum. I am armed with the truth. That's all I have to do. Tell the truth about his criminal activities and my burdens will be unloaded," Mawanay said.

He said his only intention was "to unmask a senator whom the public perceives as very charming and who claims to be Mr. Clean."

"Lacson is no Mr. Clean. He is involved in drug trafficking, murder, kidnap-for-ransom and my family will never be safe for as long as he remains scot-free. I will not allow him to get away with these crimes," he added.

Lacson has denied Mawanay's allegations and has disputed his claim that he was once a civilian agent of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

Even so, Mawanay said he was ready to face the consequences of his action, adding even his family had been through difficult times.

On the day that he was detained, Mawanay said he could not explain to Mikmik why he could not celebrate his birthday with him.

"He asked me why telling the truth could land me in detention. I simply hugged him because I also could not understand and assured him that everything will be all right," Mawanay said.

According to him, he promised his son a new pair of shoes for his birthday.

Mawanay said he bought Mikmik and Misha as well new pairs of shoes after he was released.

Katotohanan

Mawanay has also won the support of the Samahan Para sa Katotohanan at Kinabukasan (Katotohanan), a newly formed alliance of key players of Edsa People Power II.

Calauag is the vice president of the group that has vowed to organize people power at the community level against "narco-politics."

According to Katotohanan, drug addiction in the country is rapidly rising due to numerous organized crime syndicates enjoying the protection of some government officials.

Citing recent survey results, Caluag earlier said at least one out of 10 youngsters aged between 7 and 21 had tried illegal drugs.

Most of those hooked on drugs belong to the A, B and E socio-economic classes and come from Metro Manila and Mindanao.

Over 1.8 million Filipinos have drug problems and around half of the crimes committed every year are drug-related, according to Katotohanan.

Who's real Kim Wong . . .

(From page A1)

passport bearing his Chinese name Wong Kamsin and who listed his address in Manila as Gotesco Tower, came home alone and cleared with the immigration and customs counters by himself, he said.

Wong left the country on the afternoon of Aug. 14, taking PAL flight PR 310 for Hong Kong supposedly to attend to business there.

His departure came on the heels of the disclosure by Col. Victor Corpus that Wong, suspected as a leader of the international drug syndicate 14-K, continued to foot the cellular phone bills of Lacson.

Corpus heads the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp). Former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim corroborated Corpus' allegations that Wong is a drug lord.

But Frank Chavez, lawyer for Wong, has maintained his client's innocence and that he would return to the country to answer the charges.

Wong has been portrayed as a "drug lord, a member of the dreaded Chinese triad, a fixer, an influence peddler and recently, a mastermind in a murder of a Chinese interpreter."

Corpus claimed Wong was a "big-time" drug lord and partner of Lacson in several alleged criminal activities. But Lacson said his friend was a simple legitimate businessman.

Wong is both, according to Lim:

"Wong is a drug lord masquerading as a legitimate businessman," Lim declared.

But Chavez stressed his client is a "self-made man, period."

The INQUIRER took a peak at the background of Wong both from his accusers and defenders. An intelligence "dossier" of Wong, now 39 years old, said the Chinese was 12 when he arrived in the Philippines with his mother from Hong Kong.

A Chinese, Wong's mother used to be married to an Ilonggo. Wong is married to a Filipina who graduated summa cum laude from an exclusive school, Chavez said.

Comfortable, abused

When his mother remarried, Wong found himself an adopted son of the owner of La Campana, the manufacturer of Bataan Matamis cigarettes.

According to his intelligence dossier, Wong lived a "quite comfortable life" with his new family. But Chavez said Wong was, in fact, physically abused by his stepbrothers and stepsisters.

"Wong was practically an orphan. He had to struggle and strive harder to get noticed and get to where is now, a rich businessman. He earned his riches through sheer diligence and guts," Chavez countered.

Wong's dossier said when bigger cigarette manufacturers entered the market, La Campana started to go under.

To save the company from being wiped out, he allegedly helped the family diversify into marijuana distribution, using the same machines and network in place for distributing the company's products.

"Marijuana does not need a filter. So did the Bataan Matamis," the dossier said.

"That's ridiculous. You mean to tell me Wong was a drug lord at a very young age?" Chavez reacted.

Yes, the intelligence dossier alleged.

Aggressive

To secure protection for his fast-growing marijuana business, Wong allegedly had to start putting law enforcers manning checkpoints on his payroll.

As the marijuana business grew, so did his influence, the dossier states.

Having bought protection for his illegal trade, Wong became more aggressive and ventured into distributing shabu.

Wong discovered that police and military protection was not enough. Some of his drugs were apprehended by some straight or not-so-straight lawmen who wanted to squeeze "grease money" from him.

He was threatened with lawsuits. So Wong had to buy judges to bail out the drug suspects under his employ. That's when he was tagged as a "fixer."

Wong's perceived influence in high places allegedly attracted the attention of the Chinese triad drug syndicate.

He allegedly befriended judges, police and military generals and journalists to protect his drug empire. He allegedly showered them with "expensive gifts."

Former Manila Mayor Lim said Wong was fond of giving away cars, appliances and other expensive gifts.

Three years ago, Wong gave Chief Supt. Avelino Razon a golf share in Mimosa Golf and Country Club in Clark, Pampanga, reportedly costing P850,000. Razon was then the Western Police District commander. He's now stationed in Cebu as the police director for Central Visayas.

Razon has explained that it was not a gift but a share swap with his own P700,000 golf share in the Riviera Golf and Country Club.

Legit business

Wong allegedly continued to diversify and started putting up legitimate businesses such as a garments factory and restaurants as fronts for his drug deals.

"In America, the Mafia use the same modus operandi. They put up restaurants so that the drug deals can be held there. These Mafia people would simply say, 'Hey, we're in the restaurant to have fine dining' but actually, the Mafia just concluded a drug deal or whatever deals they have. That's what Wong did," Lim said.

But Chavez reiterated that hard work alone got Wong where he is today.

"He was going to as far as Mindanao and Palawan just to source rattan for his furniture business. He made some money but in the end, he lost because of so many mulcting cops at every checkpoint," Chavez said.

"He also made some money when he invested in stocks when the market was bullish in 1997," Chavez added.

Wong's riches became more apparent when he got close with the late Siy Pio Lato, whose business empire included the operation of jai alai. Wong learned more about business from his new friend.

By then, Wong had been tagged a "shipper" or a drug lord, who had the capacity to import and export drugs.

Same lawyer

Chavez had also defended Siy Pio Lato when the latter was embroiled in a legal battle with the government that wanted to crash jai alai in favor of lotto in 1994.

"That's why I know Lim and Kim Wong were close friends because I had since seen them together in the company of Siy Pio Lato. Lim and Kim already know each other since 1991," Chavez said.

But Lim denied that he and Wong were ever close friends. He said he had met him only when he gave shirt donations during the 1995 elections.

But Chavez recalled otherwise: "That's not true. Kim even hosted a P100,000 a plate dinner to raise funds for Lim who ran but lost in the 1998 presidential elections. Lim only started saying things against my client when he lost to Atienza, who was supported by Kim in the mayoralty elections this year."

Granting, without conceding, that Wong is indeed a drug lord, Chavez said the Chinese could not have made so much money in a little over two years from the time he met Lacson.

"In 1999, Lim started threatening my client because Lim learned that Kim was already supporting Atienza. So he had to seek the help of Lacson for security," Chavez said. "You mean to tell me he got rich for so short a time when he got the hard-earned money from years of working hard?"

"My client is not a drug lord. I would not have taken him in if he is a drug lord. I told him to level with me. I said you can lie to the whole world but not to your lawyer. I'll drop you like a hot potato if you lie to me. And he did level with me," Chavez stressed.

Other friends

In Cebu City, Razon defended his friendship with Wong. "Being a friend of suspected drug lord Kim Wong is not a sin," he said. He has been invited to appear in today's Senate hearing inquiring into Lacson's alleged drug links through Wong.

Besides, there has been no evidence to link the businessman to drugs, Razon claimed.

"I am wondering why I was being dragged in the controversy. If it is a sin to be a friend or an associate of Kim Wong, I hope this will not be made as a basis," he said.

Razon also pointed out that Wong has plenty of friends in the Philippine National Police but he refused to name names because, he said, he does not want his colleagues to be dragged into a case that had yet to be proven.

Herrera, too

Former Sen. Ernesto Herrera admitted that the Citizens' Drug Watch, which he founded, also benefited from Wong.

He said shirts for Citizens' Drug Watch were printed by Wong's garment factory. Herrera failed to say when the printing of shirts happened.

He explained that Wong's factory offered a lower price than that quoted by other factories.

He said it was Alfredo Lim who insisted that the T-shirts for the Drug Watch be printed in Wong's garment factory. Lim was then a board member of Citizens' Drug Watch.

Herrera, an anti-drug crusader, admitted he knew Wong but they are not friends.

Wong, he said, is one businessman who knows everybody, especially people in government.

Herrera said he learned of Wong's alleged drug activities only last April from Col. Victor Corpus, when the latter asked him to expose the alleged involvement of Lacson and Wong in drugs as well as Lacson's alleged bank accounts abroad.

But Herrera said he turned down Corpus at that time because the intelligence chief failed to give him pieces of evidence to back up the allegations.

Razon said he will appear in the inquiry once he receives a formal invitation from the Senate.

"Yes, I will attend the hearing once I receive a copy of the invitation. I have nothing to hide and I am willing to help the Senate shed light on this issue," Razon said.

Bro. Andrew fined for purchase of luxury cars

(From page A1)

connection with the controversial purchase. He said Gonzalez only had "a deficiency in his duty as secretary."

"He did not go deep into the matter," Desierto said.

Valdes and Carale had been ordered suspended for six months late last year in connection with the questionable purchase. They were not able to return to the education department after the January People Power II uprising that led to the ouster of the Estrada administration.

Manhit had tendered his resignation together with Gonzalez when Estrada was ousted.

Mariano had been ordered relieved by incumbent Education Secretary Raul S. Roco a few months back.

Desierto said Valdes' dismissal from service includes the cancellation of his eligibility, forfeiture of his leave credits and retirement benefits and his perpetual disqualification from re-employment in the government service.

The administrative case stemmed from the education officials' use of a P12-million donation from the Land Bank of the Philippines and a special account of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports to buy 24 luxury vehicles starting in October 1999.

GONZALEZ

The cars include a Ford Expedition for Gonzalez, two Pajeros, three Honda CRVs and Toyota Revos.

Desierto said Gonzalez had requested the Land Bank of the Philippines for a P12-million donation for DECS office equipment. The amount was then deposited to a special checking account.

Gonzalez had also authorized the improper transfer of the interest of other DECS accounts to the special account.

Valdes, who was undersecretary for finance and administration, did not report the existence of the special account to the Department of Budget and Management and the Commission on Audit. He also transferred the interest from other DECS accounts to the unreported special account.

Valdes was also found to have violated regulations on the procurement of government property when he bought the luxury cars.

The Ombudsman said Manhit and Carale knew of the special account but did not take steps to report it to the DBM, COA, or DECS.

Desierto said Mariano was penalized for directly participating in the procurement of three service vehicles. He had requested Valdes to issue a check for the purchase of the vehicles, which was made without any public bidding or presidential authority. He was the recipient of one of the vehicles.

Guardo pushes Cebu's SEA bid

PREPARATIONS are underway to push Cebu City's bold bid to host the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, which gathered more support from the Cebu City government and the private sector.

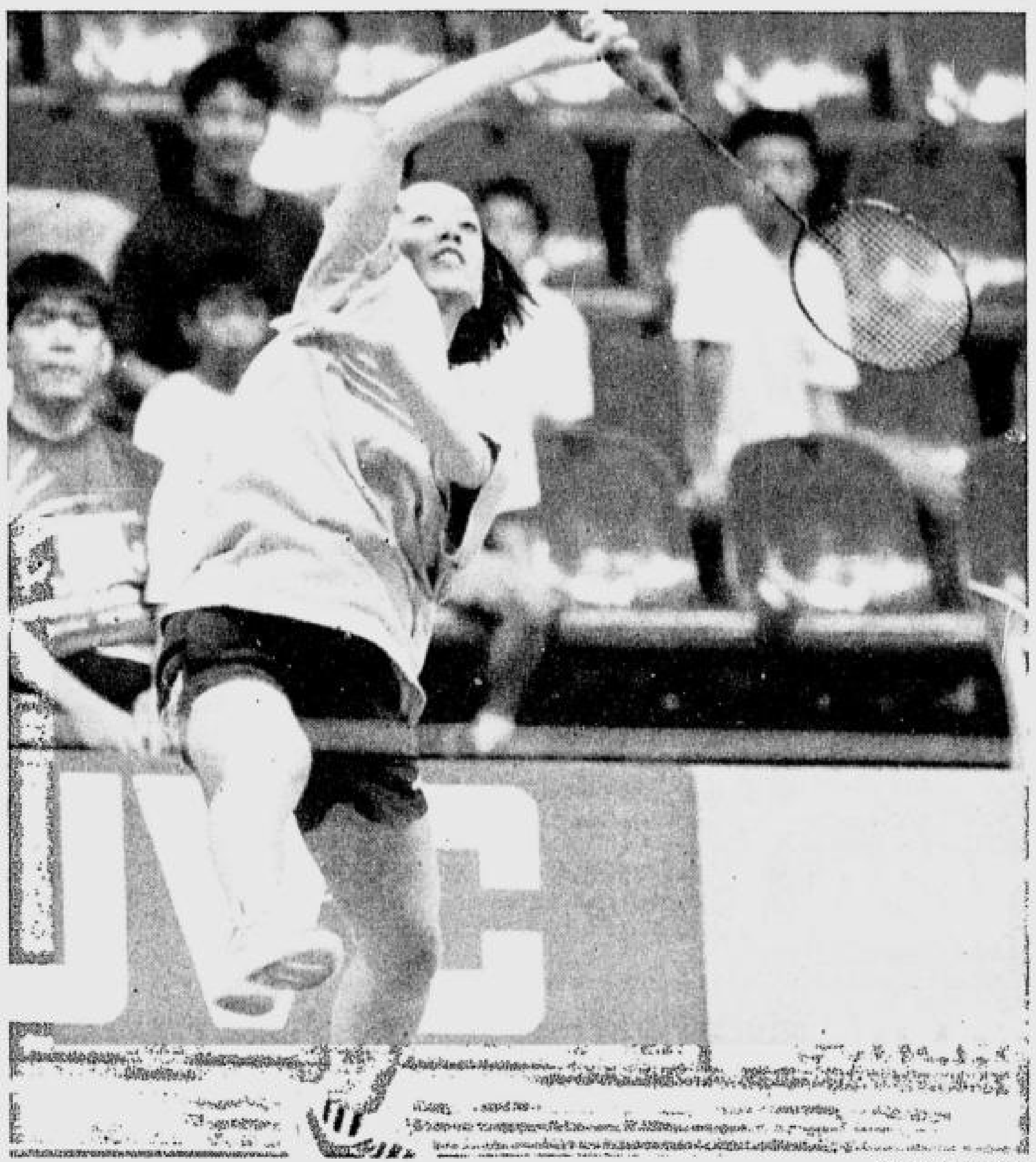
This was bared yesterday by Cebu City Sports Commission (CCSC) chair Jonathan Guardo, the main proponent of the bid, after his meeting with Cebu City Mayor Tommy Osmeña.

"He liked the idea and agreed with me that it's high time for Cebu to take the spotlight in Philippine Sports," said Guardo, adding that the Cebu City Council is deliberating on the resolution to formalize Cebu's bid for the 2005 SEAG to the Philippine Olympic Committee.

"I also got good feedbacks from my businessmen friends and other sports leaders in Manila and Cebu. It's quite flattering, they were encouraging me to push this bid and not let this opportunity pass," he said.

The proposed site of the multi-event stadium is the 320-hectare South Reclamation Project, a special economic zone like Clark. And Osmeña vowed to allot 20 hectares for the construction of the multi-event stadium which shall be the main site of the biennial event, including the opening and closing ceremonies.

To push the bid, the Cebu City government recently formed a multi-sectoral bid committee to be headed by Representative Joy Young, whose experience in bidding brought the 1994 Palarong Pambansa and the 1997 Philippine National Games to the Queen City of the South.



ROMY HOMILLADA

REGINE Katigbak of the Philippines shown here in a losing effort yesterday against Chen Wan-ju of Chinese Taipei in the JVC Asian Badminton Championship at Philsports.

Escoses, Asuncion lose bouts

FANCIED Indon Taufik Hidayat stopped the winning streak of Filipino Lloyd Escoses, 15-6, 15-8, yesterday in the JVC Asian Badminton Championships at the Philsports Arena.

And then Kennie Asuncion, who had earlier beaten a tough Japanese lady rival, lost to a Taiwanese as she played erratic in the crucial stages of the match.

Hidayat, the defending men's singles champion who finished No. 1 in his division in the JVC Asian Rankings heading into the event, was too classy for Escoses.

The 20-year-old Escoses advanced by scoring two victories before he faced Hidayat, the tournament's top seed.

But it was Asuncion's setback that completely ruined the day for the hosts.

The 24-year-old reigning National Open champion who, with brother Kennevic, will compose the two-player RP team to next month's SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur, blew a 6-2 lead in the second frame and bowed to Taiwan's Huang Chia-chin, 9-11, 11-7, 11-2.

"I've had too many errors," said Kennie, shaking her head after squandering what had appeared to be a good lead in the second game of their best-of-three match.

After engaging the Taiwanese, a veteran of the Sydney Olympics, to a series of service-over in the first game, Asuncion snatched an 11-9 win.

She appeared headed for an explosive day—she won her morning match in three games (sets)—when she raced to a 6-2 lead in the next game.

But the Filipino bet suddenly turned erratic, her forehand and backhand shots either proving short or simply catching the net, enabling the Taiwanese to pile up points to force a 7-all tie before scoring the next four points for the victory.

Manilans pace Luzvimin golfest

CEBU—Therese Dabao keyed Sta. Elena's charge in the Diamond Division while Lorna Tabuena led Alabang's assault in the Ruby division as Manila teams took the spotlight at the start of the Philippine Airlines-sponsored Luzvimin Golf Invitational at the Cebu Country Club course here.

Army pockets football crown

ARMY banked on a "golden goal" by Milard Betita in the extension period to nip Air Force, 2-1, and win the 1st PA-Utilco International invitational football crown recently at the Ascom field in Fort Bonifacio.

Betita's attempt from inside the penalty box in the 98th minute hit a PAF defender and bounced into the goal to break the 1-1 tie at the end of regulation period.

Nolan Madali eluded two PAF defenders in the 24th minute to give Army a 1-0 lead, watch it held until the 89th, a few seconds before the end of regulation, when Leo Jaena knocked in a header from a corner kick.

That forced the extension which ended after Betita's lucky marker.

Navy nosed out Kaya, 1-0, in the opener to clinch third spot. Jose Caminos drilled in a 30-yard looper in the 56th minute for the game's lone goal.

Philippine Football Federation president Rene Z. Adad and NCRFA president Santi Elizalde presented trophies and medals to the winners and individual awardees.

Mandaluyong hosting scrabble

THE NATIONAL Amateur Scrabble Association of the Philippines will sponsor its first Friendship Games on Saturday at the San Felipe Neri Savings and Credit Cooperative Building at 268 Boni Ave. in Mandaluyong City from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m..

Open to the public, the event is the Nascap's initial step in screening candidates to the first National Amateur Championship Games to be held next year.

For other details, call 578-8612, 0917-3711112 or 0919-3184392.

According to association president Rosario Lambino, Nascap is also preparing for its first Inter-School and Inter-company competitions. A rating system will then seed the players in each category to start a national ranking of amateur players.

Pagunsan sizzles with 64, grabs lead

By Jong Arcano

SEA Games-bound Juvic Pagunsan torched the course with seven birdies and an eagle in a record-setting eight-under-par 64 yesterday to post a 7-shot lead halfway through the 2nd Canlubang Amateur Open golf championship.

Only a bogey on the 17th marred the 23-year-old's superb round at Canlubang's South.

Pagunsan's performance saw the national team spearhead master the rolling layout with nines of 32-32, ending the memorable day with a 225-yard, 3-iron second shot on the par-5 final hole that set up a 10-foot eagle.

Seeking his second straight major title at his home club after ruling the DHL Open early this year, Pagunsan overtook first-day leader Solomon Gines, who slipped to 74.

Defending champion Marlon Dizon had four birdies in a 71 to grab second at 143 behind Pagunsan.

The women's competition of the Globe Telecoms-sponsored event, however, grew even tighter with Carmelette Villaroman grabbing the upperhand from national teammate Ruby Chico-Walker after a 74 for 151. Walker had a 77 for 152.

Heidi Chua and Lina de Guzman, however, remained in the thick of things with their 74 and 72, respectively, that left them just two off at 153, while Lucy Landicho was another stroke back at 154.

Iggy Clavecilla, tied for the lead with Gines before the round, groped for form but his 78 and a better countback score were enough to give him the men's group II title.

Clavecilla turned back Mari Hechanova and Dave Hernandez in the countback after the three submitted similar totals of 148.

Hechanova actually had scored the first 64 at the south course. But it was a practice round and Pagunsan made it more official yesterday.

"I think I'm ready for the SEA Games," said Pagunsan. "It's quite a big lead but it will still all depend on how I will play in the next two days."

Triple V vs Media

TRIPLE V makes another bid for the permanent trophy today when it clashes once again with Media in the 15th edition of the Triple V-Media Golf Classic at Aguinaldo.

The media men will be seeking a repeat of last year's close victory, which foiled a three-year sweep of the Triple V Cup, the permanent trophy of this annual golf duel. The event started 15 years ago on the short but tricky military course.

The tournament is one of the highlights of the celebration of the 24th anniversary of the Triple V Group of Restaurants and the 74th birthday of its chairman, Tito Eduque.

Tee-off time is 6:30 a.m. The awards will be at the Saisaki Edsa after the 18-hole event.

Shell launches motorcycle oils

SHELL is launching its new, revolutionary four-stroke (4T) oils for motorcycle owners and riders today at the Virgin Café in Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

"We at Shell offer you not one, but two superior products designed to protect your motorcycle engines and ensure its long-lasting performance," said Shell Companies in the Philippines country chair Oscar Reyes.

Coke football starts in Davao

THE 18TH season of the country's longest running nationwide youth sports program—the Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football tournament—started yesterday in Davao City.

After the Davao leg, the tourney will shift to Banaybanay, Davao Oriental today, and Zamboanga City on Aug. 25.

Eighteen teams have joined the Davao City eliminations, which was declared open by Philippine Football Federation president Rene Z. Adad.

Also gracing the first event of the soccerfest which has produced most, if not all, of the national players today are PSC Commissioner William Ramirez, Vice Mayor Luis Bonguyan, city administrator Leo delos Santos and Ms Chanette Cadiente, principal of host Daniel Aguinaldo National High School.

Defending Davao City champion University of Mindanao heads the cast. The other contenders in the meet which will have Adidas as official ball are: Ateneo de Davao A and B, Holy Child Academy, Crossing Bayabas National High, Dona Carmen High, C. Navarro National High, Agro Industrial Foundation High, University of Southeastern Philippines, Davao Central High, Holy Cross of Bunawan High, Bustamante National High, Davao City National High, Rizal Memorial High and Daniel Aguinaldo National High.

Eliminations are scheduled all over Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The top two teams in the regional finals will qualify for the national finals.

SILVERIO

Silverio, Hermoso top Asian Toyota Cup

JOJO Silverio of Standard Insurance-KACE Electronics-Team Tom's and Roland Hermoso of the Standard Insurance-KACE-Toyota Alabang-Petron team starred anew in the combined Asian Formula 3 Challenge (F3) and Formula Toyota Cup (FT) of the Casino Filipino Grand Prix against a 13-Formula-car field recently at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Roland Hermoso and teammate JP Tuason finished first and second in both FT races 7and 8. Silverio, flagging first the four races in June and July, ruled F3 race 7 and finished third in the race 8 behind British racer Mark Goddard and Philip Alvendia.

Judes Echauz, Standard Insurance president and team co-owner, cited Silverio, Hermoso and Tuason after receiving the AF3 Champion Team trophy at the podium.

Hermoso said after winning five FT races: "Looking good… feeling great… and lucky! In Heat 7, he drove nine laps without a clutch, left foot shifting, finished without breaks the final three laps. In Race 8, he was running out of gas, teammates JP Tuason gaining fast on him three laps to go, but the rains saved him, conserving fuel. In Races 1 and 2 last April, he beat his '13-year, first-race jinx.'"

Pinay boxers off to Bangkok

IT'S all systems go for the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines' pioneering women's boxing team as it competes in the First Women's Asian Amateur Boxing Championships in Bangkok, Thailand on Aug. 24-31.

Although faced with some financial and logistic problems, the seven-woman boxing squad is excited at the prospect of meeting their Asian counterparts for the first time.

The able and eager Filipina boxers are expected to meet strong resistance from Kazakhstan and other former USSR satellites, China, India and host Thailand.

"*Pare-parehong bagito, kaya may laban din tayo,*" said Abap president Manny Lopez.

Those who will perform well in Bangkok will be prime candidates for the First women's World Amateur Boxing Championships in Scranton, Pennsylvania in November and most probably in the 2002 Asian Games in Pusan, South Korea, as well as the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

The RP women's team sponsored by Pacific Concrete and Asphalt Mix, ALI Sportswear and the Philippine Sports Commission is composed of Alince Kate Aparri (45 kg), Librada Samson (48 kg), Annie Albanya (51 kg), Ana Cruz (54 kg), Jouveliet Cailem (57 kg), Rosy Villarito (60 kg) and Michelle Martinez (63 kg).

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	74	52	.587	
Boston	68	55	.5574	
Toronto	60	66	.47614	
Baltimore	53	72	.42420	1/2
Tampa Bay	45	81	.35729	
Central				
Cleveland	70	55	.560	
Minnesota	65	61	.5165	1/2
Chicago	61	63	.4928	1/2
Detroit	52	72	.41917	1/2
Kansas City	51	75	.40519	1/2
West				
Seattle	90	36	.714	
Oakland	73	53	.57917	
Anaheim	66	60	.52424	
Texas	55	71	.43735	

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	68	56	.548	
Philadelphia	67	57	.540	1
Florida	60	65	.4809	
New York	57	68	.45611	1/2
Montreal	53	72	.42415	1/2
Central				
Houston	72	53	.576	
Chicago	69	56	.5523	
St Louis	69	56	.5523	
Milwaukee	55	69	.44416	1/2
Cincinnati	49	76	.39223	
Pittsburgh	46	78	.37125	1/2
West				
Arizona	72	52	.581	
San Francisco	71	54	.5681	1/2
Los Angeles 1/2	68	57	.5444	
San Diego	62	62	.50010	
Colorado	53	71	.427	

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Tampa Bay 8, Baltimore 4; Toronto 7, Minnesota 5; Texas 13, NY Yankees 3; Chicago White Sox 6, Kansas City 1; Boston 8, Anaheim 5; Seattle 4, Detroit 1; Cleveland 2, Oakland 1.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Milwaukee 3, Chicago Cubs 1; Pittsburgh 4, Arizona 2; San Francisco 10, Montreal 2; Los Angeles 6, Florida 4; St. Louis 11, Cincinnati 6; Houston 8, Philadelphia 7; NY Mets 5, Colorado 7; San Diego 3, Atlanta 1, 10 innings AP

3-cock Roligon derby on

THE 3-COCK Season Ender Derby will be held today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

Sponsored by Lakpue Drug, Inc., this derby will give a P50,000 bonus to the champion.

Promoter Danny, known for his slogan "Bilis laban, bilis bayad," said that weights between 1.8 kg and 2.4 kg must be submitted on the day of the derby at Roligon from 6 to 11 a.m.

He also announced that the screening for the BL Showdown 7-Stag National Derby to be held on Sept. 3, 5 and 7 is still going on. For details, call 913-2626, 421-1275, 833-1638 or 833-2275.

Other 5-stag derbies scheduled at Roligon are on Sept. 12-ASF, Sept. 19-JRS Spectrum, Sept. 26-BMJ, Oct. 1-Blue Blade and Oct. 5-Joshua.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: CVS Charity Classic, Day Two at 2 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Senior PGA Bellsouth Senior Classic, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Asian PGA Tour/ Davidoff Tour - Volvo Masters of Malaysia Highlights at 11:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Venus 2. Kiwi Rose 3. My Indy 4. Real Charm

Race 2—1. What A Spell 2. No Compromise 3. Golden Child

Race 3—1. Accommodating 2. Golden Tale 3. Khazan 4. The Topnotcher 5. Golden Prince

Race 4—1. Our Hope 2. Diva 3. Headline News 4. God Is Good 5. Nag-iisang Ikaw

Race 5—1. Air Love 2. Southern Gent 3. Puzzling Friend 4. Nervioso 5. Snake Dancer

Race 6—1. Harvest Green 2. Rock's Dragon 3. Down for Double 4. King Ram 5. Great Hill

Race 7—1. Real McCoy 2. Annihilator 3. Grand Prize 4. Expresso 5. That's My Tiger/Wendy's Pride

Race 8—1. The Serpent 2. Imus Emperor 3. Prestige

Race 9—1. Talk to Patsy 2. Maayo Sigaw 3. Furthermore 4. Timeless Beauty 5. Grand Dancer

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RP chesser bounces back

NATIONAL Master John Paul Gomez bounced back with vengeance last Tuesday as he scored a convincing victory over No. 31 seed Diego Flores of Argentina (ELO 2425) in the sixth round of the World Junior Chess Championship in Peristeri, Greece. Gomez, seeded 85th in the 91-man field of the top under-20 years old players in the world, picked up his fourth point and jumped to a tie for ninth place in the overall standings, trailing pace-setter Sergei Azarov of Belarus who has 5.5 points.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Youth bowlers see action

YOUTH bowlers will take the spotlight on Saturday, Aug. 25, with the staging of the one-day MTBA Interclub tournament, also known as the Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Cup, at Bowling Inn on Taft Avenue. Twenty-six teams composed of four bowlers—two female, one female and one youth from the MTBA pool of young star—will compete in the eight-game event starting at 6 p.m. Among the competing clubs are Viking, Lion's U&I, United, Kegler's, Valiant, Interlink Friendship, Striker, Bowler's Camp, Friday, Pinseeker, Dragon and D'Blues.

PBA FINALS

Red Bull a win shy of crown

GAME TOMORROW *(Araneta Coliseum)*
7 p.m.—Red Bull vs San Miguel (Game 6)

By June Navarro

BATANG Red Bull threw a huge defensive blanket on San Miguel Beer in the dying seconds to escape with a pulsating 79-77 victory and move a win short of capturing the PBA Commissioner's Cup before a huge crowd last night at Araneta Coliseum.

Willie Miller blocked Nate Johnson's point-blank attempt in the last 1.8 seconds to give the Thunder a 3-2 advantage in their best-of-seven Finals series.

Johnson, who produced his largest output in the series with 43 points, got an inbound pass from Dwight Lago in the shaded area but failed to capitalize after Miller, Davonn Harp and Tony Lang ganged up on him.

Confusion erupted after the final buzzer as players from both sides trash-talked their way to the dugout.

"Emotions ran high and we're lucky enough to come out of this game alive," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao.

Johnson came out hot in the first half, draining 25 points and making nine of his 12 attempts from the field including five triples.

His back-to-back treys and Olsen Racela's triple gave the Beermen an 18-13 cushion, which they sustained up to the last three minutes of the second canto.

But not until Miller restored order on the Thunder's offensive patterns.

The 5-foot-10 Miller smeared the Beermen's defensive stance with two fearless baskets that allowed the Thunder to regain momentum.

Kerby Raymundo then escaped with two more short jumpers as the Thunder closed in, 41-43, barely two minutes remaining.

Hot from the perimeter, Johnson canned another jumper but Junthy Valenzuela knocked in a triple that gave the Thunder a 46-45 halftime edge.

Red Bull's Antonio Lang scored only four points, the lowest output by an import in a PBA finals.

Scores:

RED BULL 79—Harp 17, Agustin 13, Raymundo 10, Pennisi 9, Tugade 8, Miller 8, Valenzuela 6, Lang 4, Mendoza 2, Torion 2.

SAN MIGUEL 77—Johnson 43, Seigle 17, Racela 6, Ildefonso 4, Belasco 4, Victoria 3, Abuda 0, Lago 0, Pena 0.

Quarters: 25-26, 46-45, 64-59, 79-77.

JOHN Ferriols of Negros (left) applies pressure on Danny Capobres of San Juan.

ROMY HOMILLADA

One to go for Andok's Knights

GAME TOMORROW (San Juan Gym)
5 p.m.--San Juan vs Negros

By Roy Luarca

RAFI Ravis and Chito Victolero thrive on pressure.

They proved it last night when they led the Andok's San Juan Knights past the Negros Slashers, 76-70, in Game 3 of their MBA First Phase title series at the San Juan Gym.

Reavis canned four straight points from the foul line, while Victolero ably orchestrated San Juan's plays as the Knights moved within a win of clinching the MBA First Phase crown at the packed San Juan Gym.

The 6-foot-8 Reavis first made all three charities off a foul committed within the Blitz Three period, then made the front of two more free throws that enabled the Knights to brush aside the Slashers' Game 3 challenge and take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five series.

The reigning national titlist Knights can wrap it up with another win tomorrow at the same venue. If the Slashers manage to steal Game 4, then the series returns to Bacolod City for the decider.

That's exactly what the Knights are trying to avoid.

Complementing Reavis' heroics down the stretch was Victolero, who pumped in seven points in the last seven minutes aside from issuing the assists that helped San Juan wiped out a six-point deficit early in the fourth quarter.

Reavis wound up with 14 points, 14 rebounds, two assists and one steal to share best player of the game honors with Victolero, who finished with nine points, six rebounds, four assists and one steal.

San Juan was barely ahead, 70-67, when Reavis was sent to the 15-foot line with 1 minute and 31 seconds left. The Fil-American responded with aplomb to the Knights' fans cheering by hitting his charities.

"I knew the game was on the line and I had to make those free throws," said Reavis.

The win was a brilliant follow-up to San Juan's 86-72 conquest of Negros, which leveled the series at 1-1 in Bacolod.

It also showed the mental toughness of the Knights who watched as the Slashers rallied from 13 points down to wrest the lead at 47-46.

Dennis Madrid shone on the offensive end in that span, capping their 16-2 blast with a triple, while Ruben dela Rosa stood out on defense.

JRU targets 9-0 record, faces Benilde

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
10 p.m.—Letran vs Mapua (srs)
12nn—SSC vs SBC (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—CSB vs JRU (jrs/srs)

By June Navarro

UNBEATEN Jose Rizal University guns for its ninth straight victory against defending champion College of St. Benilde today in NCAA basketball at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

At 9-0, the Heavy Bombers tackle the Blazers (3-5) at 5 p.m. after San Sebastian College and San Beda take the floor at 1 p.m.

In the curtain-raiser, Letran battles Mapua Institute of Technology at 10 p.m. to carry on with their aborted collision last Monday.

The Knights and the Cardinals refused to play after the electronic scoreboard in the coliseum bogged down.

Though heavily favored, the Heavy Bombers cannot take the Blazers for granted owing to the defending champions' propensity to score a reversal especially against highly touted squads.

The Blazers snapped a five-game losing skein after they subdued the Stags, 72-69, during their recent encounter.

The Heavy Bombers zoomed to their eighth consecutive win after whipping the Red Lions, 125-111, the last time around.

After absorbing their seventh setback in eight games, the Red Lions are again staring at another debacle opposite the Stags, who won four of their last six games.

Lady Blazers stay unbeaten

THE COLLEGE of St. Benilde trounced Rizal Technological University, 62-32, to stay unbeaten after four games, even as Lyceum of the Philippines survived Colegio de San Lorenzo's strong second half to prevail, 43-33, over the weekend in the WNCAA basketball tournament at the Lyceum Gym.

The Lady Blazers' fourth consecutive win installed them firmly at the top at 4-0, with University of the Assumption (Pampanga) a close second at 4-1, and Lyceum at third place with a 3-1 (win-loss) card.

St. Scholastica's College outsteadied Siena College, 31-77, for its first-ever win in the tournament after three starts.

Siena took its third straight loss.

In the high school division, De La Salle-Zobel posted its straight win behind a 53-50 squeaker over Miriam College, while St. Scholastica's College downed Chiang Kai Shek College, 54-26, in the other high school game.

Hannah Macavinta, who is on her last year as a Lady Pirate, led Lyceum with nine points, while Aileen Grajeles and Rossy Camus had eight points apiece.

MJ return uncertain

CHICAGO —Michael Jordan is prepared to forgo a return to the NBA if his comeback preparations don't progress as quickly as he'd like.

"I don't want to make a fool of myself," Jordan was quoted as saying in Tuesday's Chicago Sun-Times. "If I don't think it can be done, I'll have no problem saying it. I'm not going to be pushed into this."

Jordan's comments came after the first day of his invitation-only basketball camp. However, the former Chicago Bulls star still has not ruled out a return to the court. *AP*

Archers eye revenge vs UE foes

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	7	1
Ateneo	7	1
FEU	5	3
NU	4	4
UE	4	4
UST	3	5
UP	2	6
Adamson	0	8

GAMES TODAY:
(Loyola Gym)
12:30 a.m.—UE vs DLSU (Jrs)
2:30 p.m.—UE vs DLSU (Srs)
5:00 p.m.—UP vs FEU (Srs)

By Dennis U. Eroa

SWEET revenge is on La Salle's mind as the defending champion Green Archers clash with first round tormentors University of the East Red Warriors today in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Loyola Gym.

For a while, the Red Warriors put a question mark on the Green Archers' four-ward bid with a stunning 79-58 reversal on July 21. Since that shocker, the Taft-based hoopsters have shown tremendous poise under pressure to stay on top of the eight-team field with rivals Ateneo Blue Eagles with 7-1 win-loss record.

Like counterpart Boysie Zamar, La Salle bench strategist Franz Pumaren expects a tough, down-the-wire game. At 4-4, the Recto dribblers want to fortify their Final Four bid.

The game is set at 2:30 p.m., with the Far Eastern University-University of the Philippines encounter scheduled at 5 p.m. The Tamaraws, the 1997 titleholders, want to erase the stigma of their riotous 63-62 setback to the Green Archers last Saturday.

Aside from swingman Ren Ren Ritualo, La Salle is getting flashy plays from rookie sensation Mark Cardona, last year's rookie of the year Mike Cortez, Willy Wilson, Manny Ramos and crowd-drawer BJ Manalo, who's playing with renewed vigor and youthful exuberance after coming back from a foot injury which sidelined him in the first round.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

De La Salle's '4-peat' bid in peril

By June Navarro

LA SALLE's "four-peat' drive might yet suffer a serious blow after the UAAP board questioned the eligibility of rookie Mark Cardona, one of the Archers' upcoming stars.

The 6-foot-2 swingman was said to be lacking the necessary documents to play in the league, a UAAP board member yesterday told the INQUIRER.

Cardona, the board member added, should present documents proving that he studied and played less than three years at Carson High School in California.

Otherwise, the board will have no recourse but to forfeit all of La Salle's won games where Cardona had seen action.

It means the Archers would forfeit seven of their last eight games and share a space in the cellar with winless Adamson.

"We don't want to put pressure on La Salle so we are giving them enough time to submit the necessary documents upon which the UAAP board will decide," said the source, who requested anonymity.

Meanwhile, UAAP president Anton Montinola of FEU said the league would collaborate with the Asian Basketball Academy to pinpoint the culprits behind the La Salle-FEU riot last Saturday.

Montinola said they would identify the aggressors and ban these people for the remainder of the season for unsportsmanlike behavior.

He added FEU president Dr. Edilberto De Jesus wrote a letter to DLSU president Bro. Rolly Dizon apologizing for the unruly behavior of some of the FEU supporters during the match.

Referee Raffy Britanico suffered a bruised cheek bone after an FEU supporter hit him for a wayward call.

MBA dribblers ready for SEAG

IN A quick response to the recent agreement among the country's top leagues to save the country's participation in the Southeast Asian Games, the MBA board put its stamp of approval to the formation of a national team for the biennial conclave set Sept. 8-17 in Kuala Lumpur. Commissioner Gregorio "Ogie" Narvasa III yesterday announced the unanimous approval by team owners to commit MBA players and coaches to the RP squad following a marathon meeting held Monday at the JMT Bldg. in Ortigas, Pasig.

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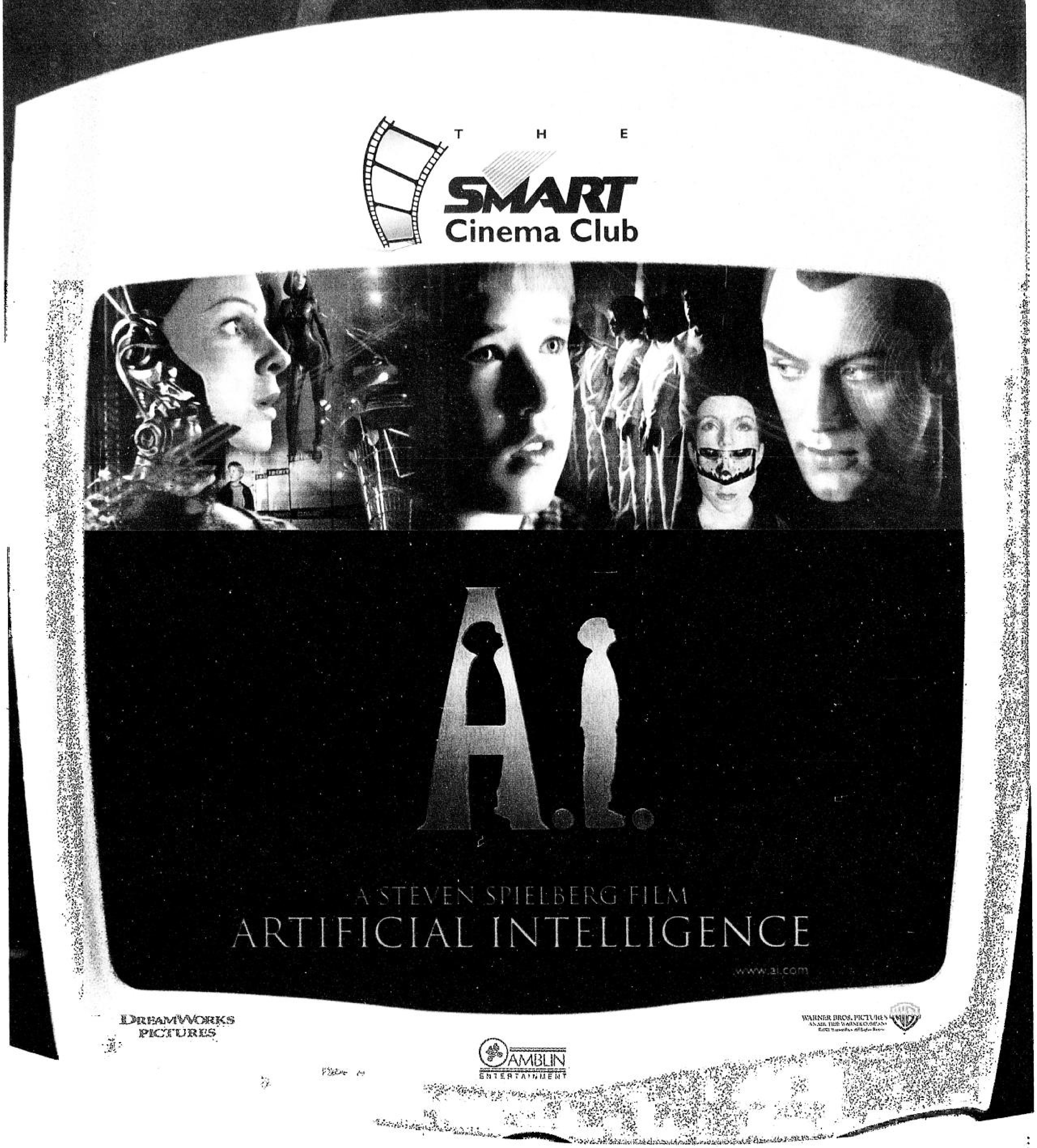

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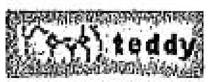

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Manor owner showing up

By ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

THEIR lawyers yesterday denied they were in hiding but police swore they could not find the owners of the Manor Hotel in Quezon City where 74 people perished in a dawn fire on Saturday.

"Our clients are not hiding," lawyers of William Genato and his wife asserted yesterday to debunk claims of police authorities that they were hunting the couple following their failure to show up and give their side to arson investigators.

"They are just in their house in Maginhawa (UP Teachers' Village). Why? That's only reckless imprudence. That's not even a heinous crime," a visibly irked Benito Ambrosio, lawyer of the Genatos, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

The lawyer called up the INQUIRER office yesterday morning to deny that his clients went into hiding. He branded the report as unfair to the Genatos "who had suffered much" since the fire struck their hotel, killing over 70 people.

Police, however, said that the Genatos could not be found.

"If they want to see our clients, they can go there (Genatos' residence) anytime," Ambrosio added.

In fact, Ambrosio maintained, the

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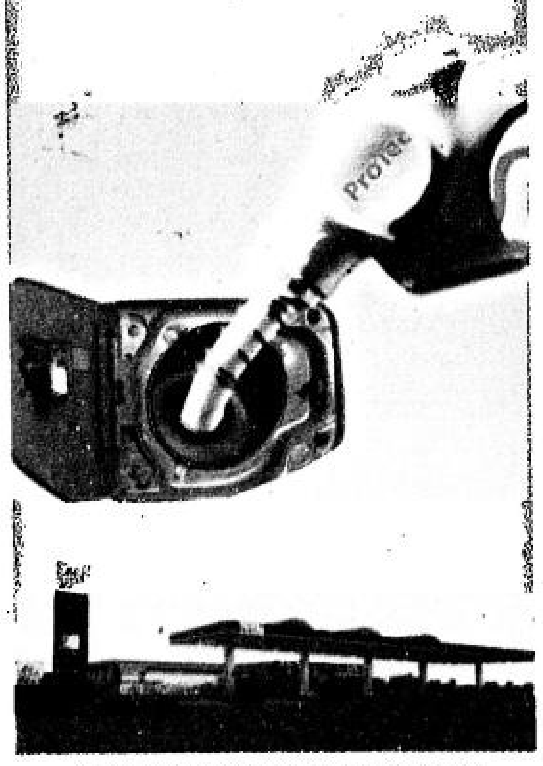

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Ben Abalos, solon in shouting match

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

A PIQUED Metro Manila Development Authority chair Benjamin Abalos and Valenzuela Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo I figured in a shouting match yesterday during a recess of a House committee on ecology hearing which was tackling the garbage problem in Metro Manila.

Abalos, who was seated a chair away from the young solon, reportedly confronted Gunigundo and shouted at him, saying, "You cannot teach us how to do our job.''

"You better act like a congressman if you are a congressman,'' Abalos reportedly lashed at Gunigundo.

To this, the Valenzuela congressman charged back: "You better behave and act like a Cabinet secretary. You are before the House of Representatives not the city council of Mandaluyong.''

Abalos was former mayor of Mandaluyong. His son, Benhur, is the current mayor.

The altercation came after the House committee on ecology, chaired by Misamis Oriental Rep. Augusto Bacullo, held a hearing on solid waste management in Metro Manila.

But according to Gunigundo, Abalos suddenly raised the issue of the abolition of the MMDA when the latter said that Metro Manila mayors have already signed a resolution "strengthening the MMDA and opposing any moves to scrap it.''

Gunigundo, who has always been for the abolition of MMDA even during the time of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, countered that the ecology committee hearing was not the proper forum to discuss the resolution of the Metro Manila council.

"I just wanted to make it off record that we were in a hearing of the House committee on ecology, discussing the problems of Metro Manila about solid waste and not the abolition or continued existence of the MMDA,'' said Gunigundo.

This may have irked Abalos who, after Bacullo called a recess, stood up and confronted Gunigundo.

Benhur in bike mishap

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

MANDALUYONG Mayor Benhur Abalos narrowly escaped injuries after two Koreans hit the motorcycle the young city executive was riding at dawn yesterday in Mandaluyong City.

Abalos was not hurt but filed charges of attempted homicide, direct assault and driving without license against Jae Young Park and Seong Ki Yeo before the city prosecutor's office.

The two suspects, who were allegedly under the influence of alcohol while driving, are detained at the Mandaluyong police station beside the local government building where Abalos holds office.

Police said Abalos was with friends Conrado Cabrera and Anthony Subaay, both of the Luzon Motorcycling Inc., when the incident happened around 2:30 a.m. yesterday.

His security escort Tito Enriquez, head of the mayor's action command, also accompanied Abalos when he was bumped on San Francisco Street Barangay Plainview, Mandaluyong.

Abalos, a bike enthusiast, and his friends had come from Rockwell Center in Makati City, a popular nightspot for yuppies, when they encountered the suspects.

Seong Ki Yeo, 35, and Jae Young Park, 39, who live in Cainta and Ortigas, respectively, allegedly bumped Abalos' vehicle, and appeared to be drunk.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

NO WAY OUT

Nothing unusual about mountains and mounds of uncollected garbage, like this one at a corner of Pasong Tirad in Makati City, they are all over Metropolitan Manila. But what could better define the stink and squalor than this helpless kid who has been trapped by the monstrous, disease-causing mess.

Tadao lover freed; aide eyed in slay

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

CALOOCAN prosecutors have ordered the release of masseur Alex Ilagan who was tagged by police as the primary suspect in the killing of Japanese harpist Tadao Hayashi last month.

Ilagan, 31, said to be Hayashi's lover, was ordered released after city prosecutors dismissed the robbery with homicide charges filed against him by the Caloocan police.

Chief Inquest Prosecutor Oscar Yu yesterday said police should zero in on Hayashi's aide, Antonio Clet, 47, because he allegedly had a motive to have the Japanese killed.

In a three-page resolution, Yu said police deliberately suppressed and falsified evidence against Ilagan.

Yu said investigators lifted at least 13 sets of fingerprints from Hayashi's house where he was killed on July 22.

But police did not include the prints in the documents they submitted to the prosecutor's office because not one of the fingerprints matched Ilagan's, Yu said in his resolution.

"There was willful suppression of evidence which if produced would be adverse to the complainant," Yu said referring to the police.

Yu also said that the police asked primary witness Reynaldo Ortillano to change his first affidavit to "strengthen" their case against Ilagan.

Ortillano stated in his affidavit that he saw a man in front of Hayashi's house on the night the Japanese was killed, according to Yu.

Ortillano said the man he saw was about 5-foot-2, 25 to 26 years old, fair, sported a short haircut and had a "good" build.

But three days later, the witness executed another affidavit claiming it was Ilagan he had seen outside Hayashi's house, according to Yu.

Ortillano said Hayashi even greeted Ilagan when he entered the house.

The second affidavit came after police arrested Ilagan in Floodway, Pasig City.

At 5-foot-8 and with a heavy build, Ilagan is the complete opposite of the man Ortillano had described in his first affidavit.

Material facts constituting circumstantial evidence were also added in the second affidavit to "deliberately strengthen" the case against Ilagan, Yu said.

The prosecutor believed Ortillano changed his affidavit two days after the killing when he heard that there was a P200,000-reward.

With the dismissal of the case against Ilagan, police should focus on Clet as the primary suspect, Yu said.

The prosecutor suspected the aide ordered Hayashi's killing because he wanted to gain control of the victim's property here.

Yu said police should also look into Clet's "unnatural" behavior on the day he learned Hayashi was killed.

Roco orders nationwide check as fire hits Caloocan school

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA
AND CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

ON THE DAY Education Secretary Raul Roco ordered an inspection of all public schools in the country to check for fire hazards, fire hit one Caloocan public school yesterday injuring a 16-year-old girl.

Fourth year high school student Criselle San Pedro nearly suffocated when fire swept through the main building of Macario Asistio Sr. High School in Kaunlaran, at 1:08 p.m., said Chief Insp. Agapito Nacario, city fire chief. (In Marikina, the San Antonio Realty and Alps Cottage Industry Inc. was gutted down by an hour-long fire.)

San Pedro is now in stable condition at the Caloocan General Hospital.

Faulty wiring sparked the fire in the reading area on the third floor, Nacario said.

By the time firefighters arrived, the entire third floor had been gutted, investigators said.

The fire reached Task Force Alpha before it was declared under control at 2:30 p.m., Nacario said.

Nacario estimated damage at P15 million.

On Saturday, a fire hit the Manor Hotel in Quezon City where at least 74 people died and 40 others were injured.

That incident prompted Roco to order the inspection and urge school officials to conduct fire drills to orient students on what to do in case of a fire.

"That's terrible, it's a tragedy," Roco said of the Manor Hotel fire. "It affects the nation, and we have a track record of disasters that is not helping the country."

In trying to dispel concern on the safety of the country's public schools, Roco assured parents that the Department of Education, Culture and Sports regularly checks on the school buildings.

He said the regional offices routinely "investigate" the condition of the classrooms and other facilities in the state-run centers.

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Manor . . .

(From page A17)

Genatos even went around the hospitals where the victims of the fire that struck their hotel were confined to give monetary assistance.

He said the Genato couple would also show up at the Quezon City Prosecutors' Office on Friday morning for the preliminary investigation.

The couple was charged earlier this week with reckless imprudence resulting to multiple homicide.

"Our clients are willing to face the charges. They should give (the Genatos) some dignity because they have suffered much," said Wenceslao Orpiano, lead counsel of the Genatos.

He said that last Saturday's incident was purely accidental and that the Genatos should not be treated like fugitives.

"After all, this is not even a heinous crime," Orpiano stressed.

He said they have advised the Genatos to help the fire victims and that, in fact, the Genatos talked to Texas-based evangelist Don Clowers and assured him they would assist the victims.

"We also have a heart to help. We, as lawyers, cannot take it in conscience if our clients will not extend such assistance," Orpiano said.

In contrast to the sentiments of the Genatos and their lawyers, fire victims and organizers of the three-day conference showed no bitterness at all.

"We believe that God is in control of the situation. He can make way even in the midst of the greatest difficulty," said Pastor Faith Reyes, volunteer of the Don Clowers Ministries and organizer of the conference.

Reyes was among the first few people to arrive at the scene and assist the fire victims.

At least 10 of his closest friends perished in the fire. Of the 74 people who died, only 10 were not Born-Again Christians.

Majority of those who died were pastors and members of their families who attended the evangelical gathering.

Reyes said the victims and the organizers of the conference have yet to decide on whether or not they would take legal action against the Genatos.

"Right now, our foremost concern is to give assistance to the victims and their families," he said.

Reyes expressed gratitude to the fire fighters that staked their own lives to save the victims.

He also thanked national and local government officials who assisted the survivors and families of those killed.

LandBank van blocked, robbed

A LANDBANK of the Philippines pickup van carrying about P1 million cash was intercepted and robbed by 15 men on board two vehicles in Tondo, Manila yesterday afternoon. The bank's service vehicle, a white Mazda pickup (SET-628), was about to return to its branch at the Manila International Container Terminal when it was held up near the Del Pan Bridge around 12:30 p.m. Edna Baul, 31, a bank teller, and the driver Lemuel Bagatsol, 34, told investigators that they had just collected revenues from the customs brokerage firms when blocked by a red Toyota Revo (TPJ-589) and a gray Toyota Hi-Ace without license plates. The suspects took the guards' shotguns, grabbed the moneybags and envelopes containing the cash and fled. Witnesses claimed one of the robbers was even dressed as a policeman and manned the traffic in the area. *Jerome Aning*

Sen. Revilla should shut up

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SOME of my friends told me that Sen. Ramon Revilla had proposed that this writer be ordered arrested by the Senate for starting the trouble that the august (?) body has gotten itself into.

To his credit, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, so I was told, said there was no basis for doing that because as a journalist I was just reporting what I was told by my news sources.

That ignoramus of a senator—I'm referring to the senator from Cavite—would do anything, even make an a** of himself, just to get the attention of the public.

***

Revilla would be doing the country a great service if he just kept his mouth shut.

This guy's only saving grace is his moustache that is as dense as his brains. He has uses for his moustache, such as for more mundane things, but he has no use for his brains.

A joke goes that Revilla figured in a serious car accident and his head had to be X-rayed to determine if it had developed cracks. The doctor said the senator's head was OK but that he didn't find anything inside.

***

Oldtimers at the Bureau of Customs recall anecdotes about Revilla when he was still with the customs police. Those anecdotes are not amusing at all.

One anecdote goes that when he was assigned to guard one of the gates at the then Manila International Airport, he flagged down a truck loaded with expensive goods. The truck came from one of the warehouses inside the airport.

The driver and *pahinante* told Revilla that taxes and duties had been paid for the expensive items in the truck.

Revilla, so the anecdote goes, said: *"O, nagbayad na nga kayo ng sa* customs *pero sa akin hindi pa* (Okay, you've paid taxes and duties to the customs but you haven't paid me anything yet)."

***

In the distribution of committee chairmanships, Revilla reportedly begged his fellow senators to give him public works and highways.

He said that he didn't care about the other committees so long as he got the committee on public works and highways, a source at the Senate once told me.

Now, are you still surprised why Revilla would beg for the chair of that committee which oversees the distribution of money-making projects by the Department of Public Works and Highways, given the above anecdote?

***

If you find the above anecdote *propesterous*—as Revilla's son-in-law, Sen. Robert Jaworski would put it—what about that incident at the Senate where he participated in a deliberation?

The Senate was discussing the renaming of a street in honor of a distinguished person who became a congressman, a governor and an ambassador in his lifetime.

Revilla, who had the floor, was asked which would be the proper title for the late illustrious personality.

Which was higher in rank, Revilla was asked—jokingly of course—congressman or governor?

The Cavite senator replied it was the governor. Why, he was asked.

"E, kasi sa amin, pinatatawag lang ni Gov yung mga congressman kahit na anong oras (In Cavite, the governor can summon the congressmen at anytime)," he said.

***

Revilla, among other people in that legislative body, is one reason why the present Senate should be abolished.

The Cavite senator, among others, exemplifies the illiteracy and ignorance of Filipino voters.

I hope someday some brave soul in the Senate or House of Representatives will file a bill excluding illiterates and ignoramuses, the "no read, no write" citizenry, from voting.

Because of them, we have ignorant senators like Revilla and criminals like Romeo Jalosjos in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Because of these ignorant and illiterate voters—I confess to being one of them—Joseph Ejercito Estrada became president.

***

Is the Supreme Court trustworthy? That's the question many Filipinos are asking these days—considering that the Erap plunder cases are being elevated to the high court on every incident of trial, every step of the way.

I have spoken to many lawyers about this question and here are some points I have heard: According to most lawyers, the high tribunal will vote according to popular sentiment, not strictly according to the Rules of Court.

Lawyers perceive the Supreme Court justices are worried about their tenure, and so they will probably avoid incurring the ire of the noisy majority. Disgruntled lawyers say the high court today is not more competent, not more honest than the other branches of government.

***

If the executive branch of government and the legislative branch of government merit a grade of "C" from the citizenry, that's exactly the same grade the Supreme Court deserves.

Think about it. Why should any branch of government be more professional and reliable than the others? *Pare-pareho lang silang lahat* !

But it was not always that way with the high court, according to veteran lawyers. And it need not be that way, they said.

***

However, there are some justices whose integrity and competence are admitted by all the lawyers I have talked to. They mention Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and retiring Justices Vicente Mendoza and Sabino de Leon.

If President Macapagal-Arroyo wants to make an immense contribution to the country's judiciary, one effective and immediate way to do this is to appoint only the most unquestionably honest, experienced and knowledgeable people to the Supreme Court.

METROWATCH

Lover boy kills mate, stabs self

A CARPENTER killed his live-in partner and later stabbed himself in a jealous fit after he found another man inside their room in Parañaque yesterday morning. Supt. Ronald Estilles, Parañaque chief of police, identified the suspect as Manolo Tolentino, a resident of Mexico Street, Barangay Tramo 2, Parañaque City. Tolentino is under close observation at the Las Piñas District Hospital after stabbing himself four times in the abdomen. The victim was identified as Mary Joy Quebar, 29, who died due to stab wounds in the back and chest area. Based on the investigation conducted by SPO3 Odeo Carino, the two went home at around 4 a.m. when they discovered a man sleeping inside the room they were renting. The suspect became furious and claimed the man sleeping in their room was a lover of Quebar. The suspect reportedly berated his partner. A heated argument ensued and Tolentino next pulled out an improvised bladed weapon and stabbed Quebar twice. While she lay down bloodied and dying, Tolentino started to stab himself. Police said they found the words "Patawad Linda. Patawad Cora" written on the floor with a pentel pen by the suspect. It was learned that Linda is the real wife of Tolentno while Cora is one of his lovers. *Alcuin Papa*

Father, sons kill neighbor

POLICE are looking for Agustin Berdida Sr. and his sons Junior, Renato, Reggie Boy and Toto, all residents of PNR South, Barangay Magallanes, Makati City, after they were tagged as the killers of their neighbor Bellardo Abiol. Police said Abiol died on Tuesday night after the Berdidas attacked him with knives and then shot him twice between the eyes. Investigation showed that the killing happened in front of Abiol's house when a drunken Renato challenged Abiol to a fistfight. Police said the other Berdidas arrived while the two were arguing and assaulted the victim with knives. Renato then pulled out a homemade gun and shot the victim twice between the eyes, police said. The suspects fled after the killing. *Nelson Flores*

Jeepney kills student

GRADUATING high school student Clarence Ronquillo, 16, was declared dead on arrival while his friend Ma. Sheila Cuadrasal, 16, was in serious condition at a hospital in Parañaque City after a jeepney hit them yesterday morning. Ronquillo, a resident of Kalusangsillo Street, Barangay Tambo, Parañaque and student of the Parañaque Science Municipal School, died from head injuries and broken bones. Cuadrasal, a student at the same school and a resident of Sitio Nazareth, San Isidro, Parañaque City, is under observation at the same hospital. Jeepney driver Roger Tumangan, 32, and a resident of Area C, Burol, Dasmariñas, Cavite, turned himself over to police. *Alcuin Papa*

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1	MOULIN ROUGE
2	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
3	PLANET OF THE APES
4	BROTHERHOOD
5	ANIMAL
6	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
7	SEX MEDUSA
8	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
9	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
10	SHREK
11	RADYO
12	IRA

SM TUTUBAN 2514302

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	SHREK
3	BROTHERHOOD
4	IRA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	SEX MEDUSA
2	BROTHERHOOD
3	IRA
4	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
5	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
6	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
7	PLANET OF THE APES
8	SHREK
9	ANIMAL
10	MOULIN ROUGE
11	RADYO
12	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888

1	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
2	SEX MEDUSA
3	SHREK
4	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
5	IRA
6	RADYO
7	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
8	PLANET OF THE APES
9	ANIMAL
10	BROTHERHOOD

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820865

1	IRA
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	SEX MEDUSA

SM CEBU 2313816

1	SHREK
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	KAMASUTRA 2001
4	COOL DUDES
5	DUDURUGIN KITA
6	RADYO
7	PLANET OF THE APES

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
2	CLOSED
3	KISS OF THE DRAGON
4	PLANET OF THE APES
5	CATS & DOGS
6	DUDURUGIN KITA
7	CLOSED
8	MOULIN ROUGE

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	ANIMAL
2	SHREK
3	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
4	RADYO
5	VENUS
6	PLANET OF THE APES

SM SUCAT 8294075

1	BROTHERHOOD
2	SHREK
3	PLANET OF THE APES
4	MOULIN ROUGE

SM DAVAO

1
2
3
4
5
6

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GLORIETTA 1 formerly QUAD

1	SHREK
2	BROTHERHOOD, YOUNG WARLOCK
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

GLORIETTA 4

1	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	PLANET OF THE APES THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	A PIECE OF EDEN (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	ANIMAL in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	SHREK in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	MOULIN ROUGE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	PLANET OF THE APES in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SHREK in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE! AUG.24 TO 25 9PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	SHREK THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	PLANET OF THE APES in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	BROTHERHOOD, YOUNG WARLOCK in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE

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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	BROTHERHOOD
2 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
3 (DTS)	SHREK
4 GOLD (DTS)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	MOULIN ROUGE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	ANIMAL
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
8 [illegible]	RADYO
9 [illegible]	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
10 [illegible]	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	VENUS
2	RSERVE
3 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
2 (DTS)	
3	IRA

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	IRA
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	BROTHERHOOD

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	SHREK
2	BROTHERHOOD
3	IRA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
5	TEENAGE DIARIES

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	SEX MEDUSA
4	IRA
5	SHREK
6	PLANET OF THE APES
7	BROTHERHOOD
8	VENUS

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 / 892.3349

1	SHREK

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	DR. DO LITTLE
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	
2	
3	

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	IRA
A	PLANET OF THE APES

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	VENUS
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
2	RESERVE
3	IRA
4	BROTHERHOOD
5	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
6	SEX MEDUSA
7 (DTS)	SHREK
8 (SDDS)	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
9 (DOLBY)	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	IRA

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	IRA
2	BROTHERHOOD
3	VENUS
4 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
5	SEX MEDUSA
6 (DOLBY)	SHREK
7 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
8	KISS OF THE DRAGON
9	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	SHREK
2	VENUS
3	BROTHERHOOD
4	SEX MEDUSA
5 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
6	IRA
7 (DOLBY)	SHREK
8	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	VENUS
2	IRA
3 (DTS)	SHREK
4	RESERVE
5 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	IRA

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	IRA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	IRA
Lords	IRA
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	IRA
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	RESERVE
4	VENUS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	VENUS

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
2	SHREK
3	SEX MEDUSA
4	IRA
5	BROTHERHOOD

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	IRA
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	VENUS

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	IRA
2	VENUS
3	PLANET OF THE APES

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	IRA
2	PLANET OF THE APES

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	BROTHERHOOD
2	VENUS
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	VENUS
2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	TOM CATS
2 (DTS)	VENUS
3 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
4	GET OVER IT

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	VENUS
2 (DOLBY)	GET OVER IT
3 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
4	TOM CATS

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	BROTHERHOOD
2	VENUS
3	IRA
4 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	RIOT
2	VENUS
3 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
4	TOM CATS
5	BAGANSYA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	STICKMEN
3	VENUS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	STICKMEN
3	VENUS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	DRIVEN
2	RED DIARIES
3	VENUS

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	STICKMEN
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	RUMBLE FROM THE BRONX

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	VENUS
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	VENUS

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	VENUS
2	REPLICANT
3	DRUNKEN MASTER 2

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	VENUS
3	ANIMAL
4	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 [illegible]	SHREK
2	COOL DUDES
3	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
4 [illegible]	PLANET OF THE APES

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1 THX	PLANET OF THE APES
2	BROTHERHOOD
3	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
4	MOULIN ROUGE
5	SHREK
6	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
7	ANIMAL
8	PLANET OF THE APES
9	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
10	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	SHREK
2	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
3	BROTHERHOOD
4	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
5	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
6	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
7	PLANET OF THE APES

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1	RESERVED
2	SHREK
3	RESERVED
4	SHREK
5	PLANET OF THE APES
6	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
7	BROTHERHOOD
8	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

IMUS (046) 471-8168

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	IRA
3	BROTHERHOOD
4	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
5	SHREK
6	SHREK

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	CATS & DOGS
4	MOULIN ROUGE
5	RADYO
6	STICKMEN

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	IRA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	SHREK
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	BROTHERHOOD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SEX MEDUSA
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TUHOG/ RED BLOODED AMERICAN GIRL
ODEON	PLANET OF THE APES
ODEON-2	VENUS
ROBEN	IRA
TANDEM-1	TURN ON
TANDEM-2	PARU PARONG LIGAW
TIMES	WOMAN ON TOP/ VALENTINE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	IRA
QUEZON-1	SEX MEDUSA
REMAR	SEX MEDUSA
REMAR-2	PLANET OF THE APES
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SHREK
CINEMA-2	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	IRA
CINEMA-2	VENUS
CINEMA-3	ANIMAL
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-6	RADYO
CINEMA-7	RED DIARIES
CINEMA-8	COOL DUDES
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SHREK
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SHREK
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-12	BROTHERHOOD
CINEMA-14	SCREAM
CINEMA-15	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
CINEMA-2	SHREK
CINEMA-3	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-4	CRAZY/ BEATIFUL
CINEMA-5	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-6	SHREK
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	WALANG MATIGAS NA PUTO . .
CINEMA-2	BLOODY WISH
CINEMA-4	HAPDI SA TAG-INIT

Hugh Grant . . .

(From page A20)

keep rubbing each other the wrong way. When they eventually get over their mutual animosity, Grant's character makes a sudden reappearance, begging for a last chance, so Firth's goose is (temporarily) cooked.

With whom does Bridget end up at the final fade? Well, you don't expect the film to side with the manipulative boss, do you?

"Bridget Jones's Diary" is intermittently droll, thanks to Zellweger's gung-ho, madcap performance. It could have been more of a consistent treat, but for the fact that the romantic comedy turns into a fantasy when the hunky Grant and Firth are both made to fall for the perky but slovely Ms Jones.

The film is a middle-aging single woman's cockeyed dream, but Bridget's strange appeal to men could have been depicted in a more realistic manner.

The movie tells its story in fits and starts, but we eventually see that it's about accepting people as they are, no matter how kooky or even self-destructive they are. That's a workable thematic premise, but it's dramatized in too pat and facile a manner.

The big plus in this movie is Hugh Grant's unexpectedly negative characterization of Bridget's "user-friendly" boss. Grant has built his flourishing stellar career on his upbeat, true-blue screen persona, but he gets up the nerve to contradict his "signature" screen persona in this production.

To play Bridget's boss, Grant has lost a lot of weight to look properly mean and manipulative. Looking much like a (still handsome) ferret on the prawl for some plump pullets, Grant gives this movie the edginess it needs to partly counteract its tendency to favor fantasy over reality.

In the face of such an unexpected portrayal, Colin Firth fades from view, even if he is this production's "official" leading man.

'The Exchange'

AT 9:30 p.m. today, Aug. 23, a new show with a unique format is premiering on ABC-5. The weekly show, "The Exchange," has a Filipina, **Reema Chan-co**, and a young man from the Czech Republic, **Adam Slavicky**, visiting each other's country.

They live in each other's homes, interact with their respective friends and family members, and experience each other's culture in a series of adventures—and misadventures! Interesting.

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8:10 PM - Shrek
10:30 PM - Shrek

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ENTERTAINMENT

Louie C. Camino, Editor

Hugh Grant plays it mean and manipulative

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ROMANTIC comedies are usually about young, svelte and beautiful female protagonists who perpetuate the myth that only pluperfect females are the stuff of which hit films are made. What about the imperfect, over-30 set? Will they just console themselves by playing supporting roles.

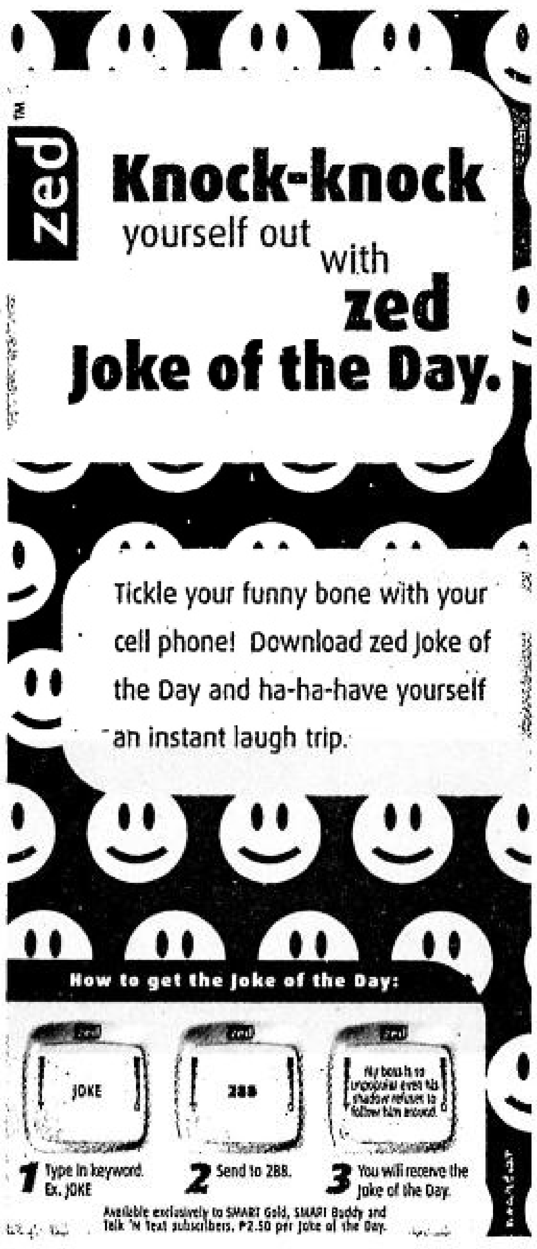
"Bridget Jones's Diary" debunks that hoary notion and cheerfully, even giddily, tells the story of an overweight, chubby woman (**Renée Zellweger**) who is in imminent danger of becoming a spinster.

To make things worse, Bridget has to contend with her contentious parents, who have problems of their own—namely, after decades of marriage, Mrs. Jones dumps her husband in favor of a smarmy TV salesman who makes her his on-camera assistant.

As for Bridget's own mad indiscretions, she first goes to bed with her randy, manipulative boss (**Hugh Grant**), and considers herself really lucky—until he dumps her for a stunning New Yorker.

Bridget's mom has been trying to match her up with a divorced man (**Colin Firth**), but they

HUGH/ A19



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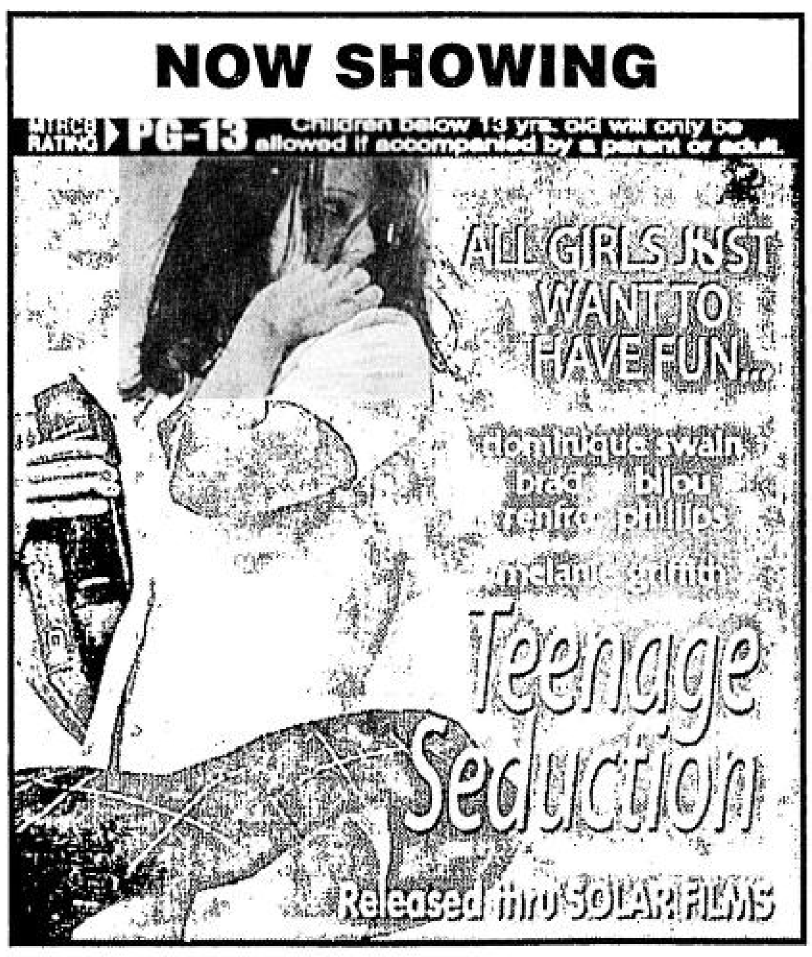

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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
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BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY - P 13 11:45, 1:50, 3:55, 6:00, 8:05, 10:10	SHREK - GP 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20	PLANET OF THE APES - P 13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
CRAZY BEAUTIFUL - P 13 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45	MOULIN ROUGE - P 13 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	SHREK - GP 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00

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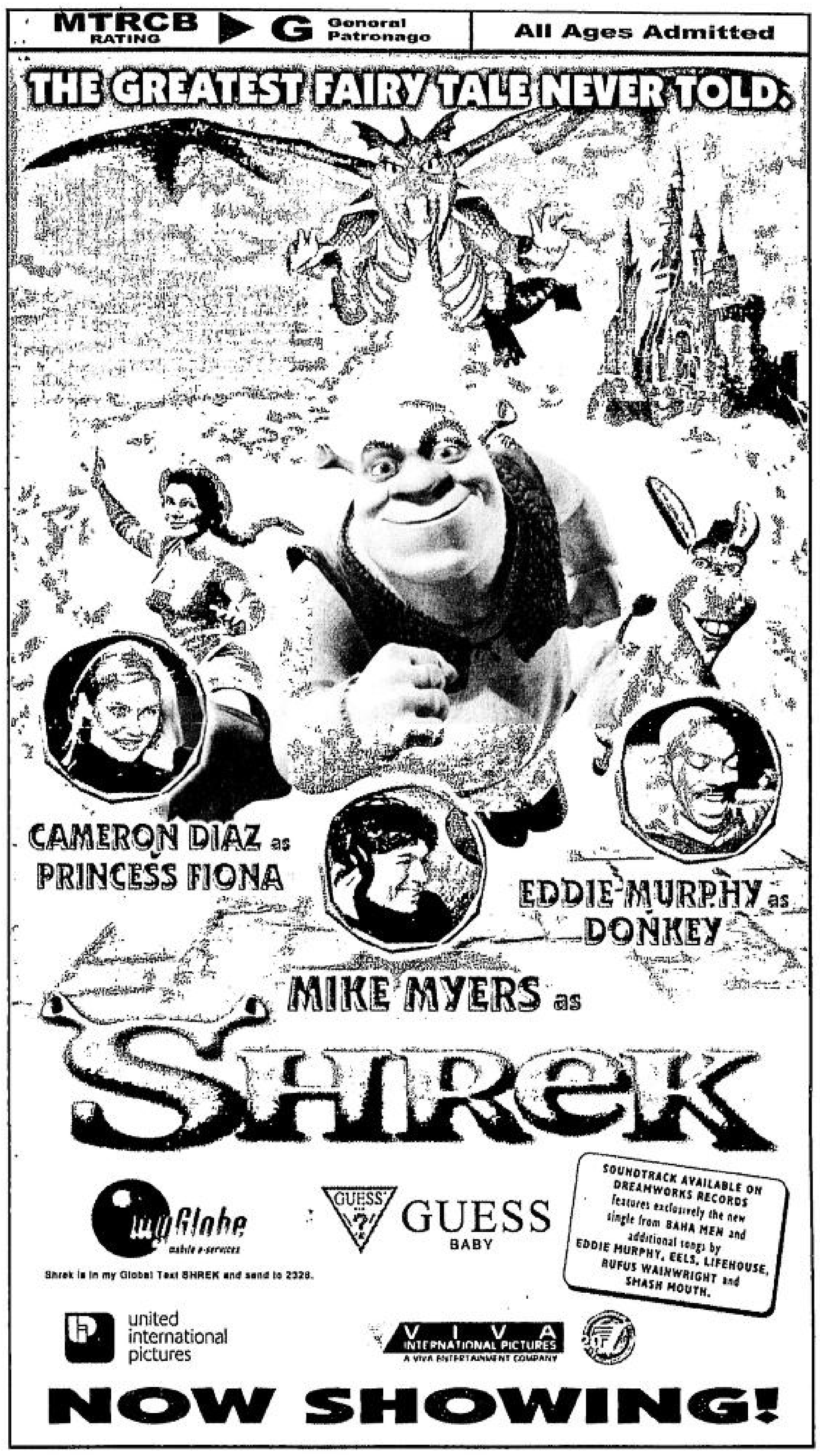

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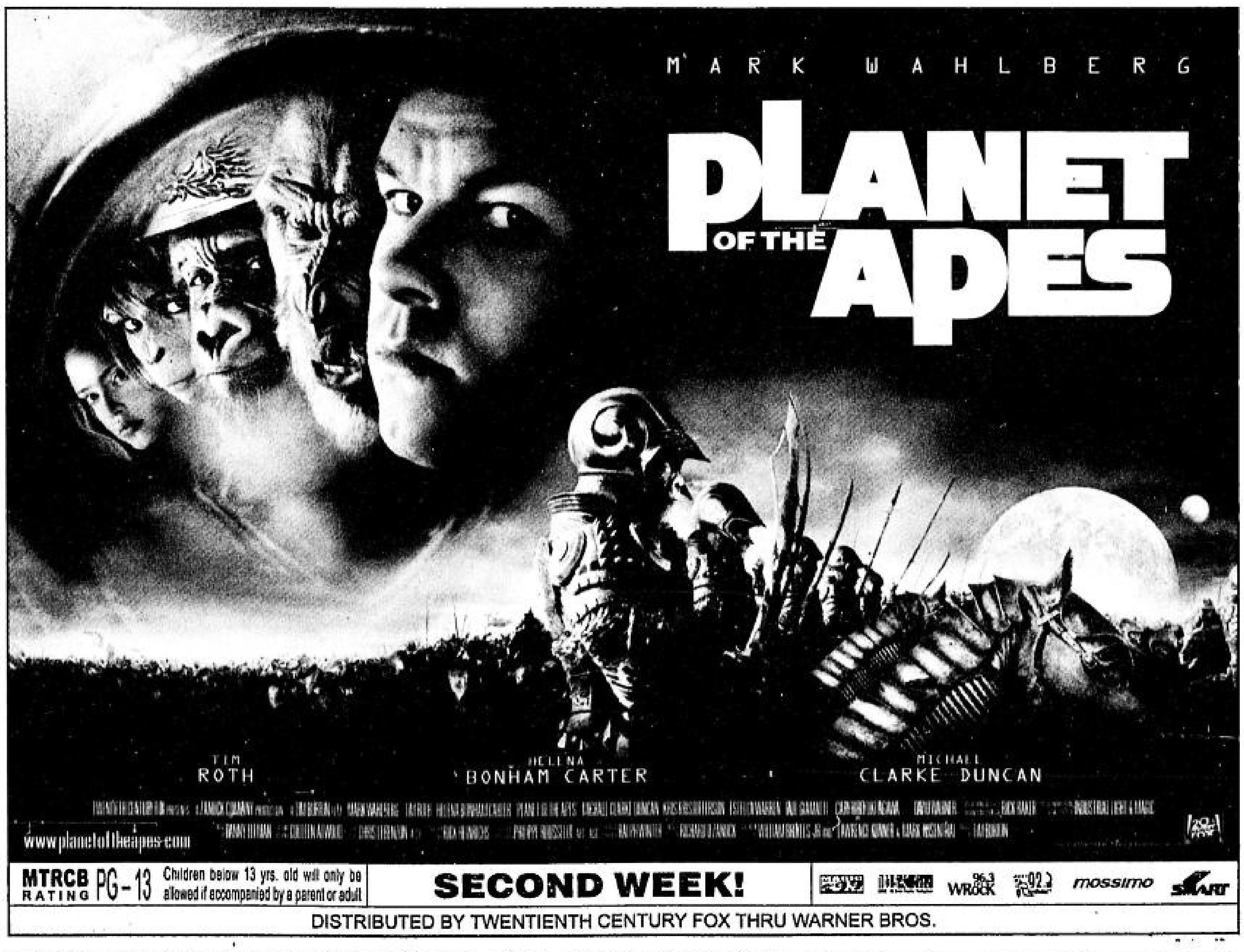

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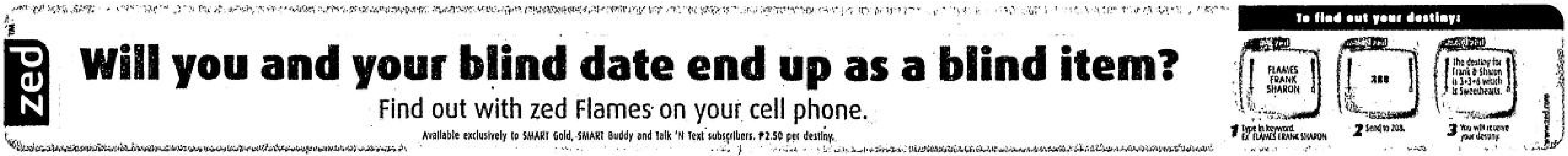

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ **CORRIE S. NARISMA**, Assistant Editor

RP avoids recession; 3% growth seen

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE PHILIPPINES has avoided a recession following an economic expansion in the second quarter of the year fueled mainly by stronger-than-expected growth in agriculture and services.

The economy has been depressed this year and gross domestic product contracted 0.5 percent quarter-on-quarter in the first quarter. A contraction in the second quarter would have meant the country was in a technical recession.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said: "I don't think there will be a recession. Agriculture has been positive and services are performing well."

The National Economic and Development Authority said growth in the second quarter was likely to come in at around an annual 3 percent against 2.5 percent in the first quarter.

The Department of Agriculture has said farm sector output grew 3.1 percent year-on-year in the first half, boosted by good weather, implying a second quarter growth rate of 3.8 percent.

Services likely grew by 4.5 percent in the second quarter, the same as in the first quarter, the Neda said in a statement.

Manufacturing output was also high in April and May, according to figures from a survey of selected industries, it said.

"GDP growth may exceed 2.8 percent and hit 3 percent," the Neda said.

Despite the somewhat more upbeat projections for the second quarter, Camacho said the government was still confident of attaining only the lower end of the 3.3-3.8 percent growth target for the full year.

"Realistically, we will be at the lower end of the target," he said.

GDP refers to the total amount of goods and services produced by the economy in a given period. The Neda will release the official figures next week.

The Neda said the latest projection was made after reviewing the performance of the agriculture sector, which, based on the latest report of the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, had grown by 3.1 percent in the first semester of the year. This implied a 3.8-percent growth for the sector in the second quarter, a strong improvement from the 2.4-percent growth in the first quarter.

The agency said the growth in agriculture was supported by the 1.07 million new jobs created in the sector as reported in the Labor Force Survey last April.

It further stressed that combined with the projected 4.5-percent growth of the services sector, the robust performance of the agriculture sector would be sufficient to attain at least a 2.8-percent GDP growth for the second quarter.

"However, GDP growth may exceed 2.8 percent and may hit 3 percent in view of the 7.7-percent growth of manufacturing in April and May as reported in the monthly integrated survey of selected industries (MISSI)," the Neda statement said.

Manufacturing accounts for the biggest share of the industry.

"The second quarter growth of agriculture also increases the possibility of hitting the midpoint of the 2.9-percent sectoral growth target for the whole year," it said.

The agency said the stronger-than-expected performance of the agriculture sector would be considered in the review for the full year GDP growth target after the release of the second quarter economic growth report.

"The upbeat prospect for the second quarter is further bolstered by the better-than-expected fiscal deficit for the first seven months of the year," the Neda said.

The national government had contained its budget deficit to P82.6 billion from January to July this year, P11 billion better than the prescribed ceiling.

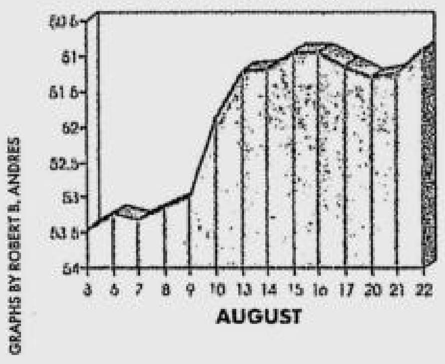
"Limiting the deficit to P145 billion in 2001 is one of the key agenda to stabilize the economy. It allows greater leeway for the monetary authorities to stabilize prices and achieve the 6-7 percent inflation target for the year," the Neda said.

As of July, the country's inflation averaged at 6.3 percent. *With a report from Reuters*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

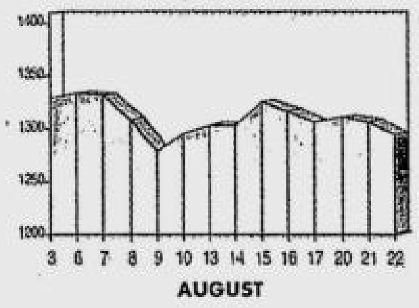
P50.91 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
August 22, 2001

¥ 119.80 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 119.80 as of 5 p.m.,
August 22, 2001

GOLD:$276.30/276.80
per ounce Hong Kong,
August 22, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B6)

Shares end lower

SHARES finished lower yesterday, as investors, having already discounted the latest round of US interest rate cut, focused instead on the Federal Open Market Committee's bearish view on the US economy, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 12.23 points, or 0.9 percent, at 1,294.43, adding to a 0.3-percent loss Tuesday. Volume rose to 485.87 million shares worth P408.84 million from 445.97 million shares worth P342.06 million on Tuesday.

Not even the strong performance of the peso against the dollar early yesterday inspired much demand for Philippine shares. *AP, AFP*

SMC-Cosmos deal faces legal snag

THE P15-BILLION sale of the Concepcion family's Cosmos Bottling Corp. to food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. faces a legal bottleneck as Iloilo congressman Augusto "Boboy" Syjuco sought a temporary restraining order against the transaction in an attempt to reclaim the Visayas-based soft drink manufacturing businesses he sold to the Concepcion family in late 1996.

In a complaint filed Tuesday afternoon at the Quezon City regional trial court, Syjuco, through Jaz Cola Philippines and nine other corporations where he sits as chair, asked the court to rescind a memorandum of agreement entered into on Nov. 8, 1996 and other subsequent contracts that provided for the sale of his companies' beverage bottling operations and properties to Cosmos subsidiary, Cosmos Visayas Bottlers Inc., for P1.168 billion."

Syjuco claimed that Cosmos, through Cosmos chair Jose Ma. Concepcion III and father Jose "Joecon" Concepcion Jr., unjustly and deliberately failed to pay a balance of P146.58 million in due obligations under provisions of the MOA and including the cost of 10 reconditioned trucks and glass bottles.

He also noted that the defendants also participated in a grand scheme to evade paying as much as P261.76 million in taxes that was supposed to have been paid on behalf of the sellers in line with the MOA.

This was allegedly done through contracts providing for the transfer and conveyance to a Fauna Developments Ltd., a foreign corporation, of the very same assets subject of the MOA and a subsequent subscription agreement signed with Cosmos.

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What Drives You CALTEX

Once I had a secret lab

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho y Go must be keeping a little secret. I'm sure it has nothing to do with love. The Whiz enjoys an image more innocent than a sacristan's.

His secret must be a sizeable source of government revenues. He insists that this cute administration can raise all the revenues it will need—with or without new taxes!

For some unknown reason, however, the Whiz does not want to share his secret with congressmen. Ah, *basta*, leave it at that, Finance can raise the revenue, period!

The congressmen, who never worked in Wall Street, are not convinced. They think the Whiz is just not leveling with them. And I'm keeping quiet even if it kills me.

* * *

REALLY, I don't even want to remind those good-for-nothing, pork-greedy congressmen about the Whiz's deal with the Hong Kong bank, aka HSBC.

It was such a long time ago, about a couple of months, that I lost memory of how the bank got from Finance a deal worth P12 billion of government securities.

I cannot even remember anymore that HSBC acted as a dealer for Finance in issuing a hybrid type of government securities.

They had to be hybrid IOUs because they had to look like they were loans. This would only allow HSBC to skirt a tax rule.

You see, all government securities are subject to a 20-percent withholding tax. But that is all except those handled by HSBC. Thanks to the Whiz.

In explaining the deal to his friends in banking, the Whiz claimed that it was a way for this cute administration to save on interest payments on foreign loans.

Apparently, in exchange for the tax waiver, HSBC had to arrange for Finance to get some cheap foreign loans. The country therefore saves on interest payments.

The question is, do the two seemingly separate but actually related deals cancel each other out? I don't know. Nobody is leveling with us. So I forgot all about it.

* * *

THE BUDGET for 2002 amounts to P780 billion roughly. It's just a little higher than this year's budget of P740 billion. Well, understandably so, 2002 is not yet an election year.

Despite the modest increase in the budget, we hear a lot of noise about new taxes. Gross taxation. Excise tax. Motor tax. These things haunt us everyday.

Even Gloriaetta talked about tax reform in her first Sona. So urgent was her appeal for tax bills, Finance has yet to give to Congress a single one.

My info is, Finance is still trying to churn out the numbers in its secret tax research lab somewhere. You know—all of the pluses and the minuses!

Meaning, if the proposed tax measure is a "plus" for the government, it must be good. Meaning, it's bad for us. "Plus" for the Whiz means "minus" for all of us.

* * *

BUT that's taxation, what do you expect? I'm just afraid any new tax that is filed in Congress today may yield results only after two years. And I am even being optimistic.

That's why I don't think the Whiz can raise the revenues to cover the budget next year. His *numero uno* fund-raiser is the BIR. Its revenue target for 2002 is too ambitious.

This year, this cute administration assigned the BIR a target of P388 billion. This, alongside last year's collection of P360 billion, is just a 7-percent increase.

But low as it is, it's not even an easy target. In the first seven months, as against the same months last year, the BIR already raised its collection by almost P10 billion.

In a bureau where everybody can afford to drink and be merry, sometimes even horny, that's a major feat already. Yet the collection was still P7 billion short of target.

The problem can worsen in 2002. Based on its financial plan, courtesy of the Whiz, the BIR must collect some P440 billion. This is a good 13-percent increase. Wow!

I really don't know how the BIR intends to achieve a P50-billion increase in its collection in 2002, but I presume already a lot of business guys are nervous out there.

* * *

REPORTS say that the Sandiganbayan dismissed the cases against those involved, allegedly, in the multibillion-peso tax credit racket. Remember that?

The government issues tax credits to certain companies such as exporters. They then sell the credits to other companies that, in turn, use the credits to pay for their taxes.

Tax credits became a major racket during the time of Kuya Eddie. It was so easy to get tax credits from Finance, the issuance became a business in itself.

Supposedly, among the big buyers of the fraudulent tax credits was the major oil firm Petron. To think, the government was still part owner of the company!

So when the whachamacalit hit the fan, the Ombudsman filed charges with the Sandiganbayan wholesale. The Ombudsman sat on the cases with its big fat . . . whatever.

Benpres, PLDT plan to sell part of stake in cable firm

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

BENPRES Holdings Corp. and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. are planning to sell a substantial, even up to a majority, stake in the merged businesses of Sky and Home Cable in line with the restructuring of the consolidated entity.

In a press briefing yesterday, Sky Vision Corp. managing director Carlos Tria and Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc. president Fritz Server disclosed that the two companies have tapped global financial giants ING Barings and Boar Stearns to prepare the plan for the two cable firms' consolidation.

They said that the business plan would involve the entry of new investors through the sale of primary and secondary shares of the merged entity in early 2002. The holding company for the combined interests of Benpres and PLDT is currently being incorporated under the name Beyond Cable Inc., Tria said.

Sky and Home Cable are also planning to seek a rescheduling of some P2.5 billion worth of their combined debts that will fall due in the next three to four years while they intend to reduce programming costs, which eat up around P1 billion or 50 percent of their combined revenues from cable subscriptions.

Under the merger agreement, the Lopez-owned Benpres group will own 66.67 percent or two-thirds of Beyond Cable, while PLDT will own the remaining 33.33 percent.

Under the plan, the group will sell primary shares to news investors simultaneous with Benpres' plan to sell half of its stake in the merged entity.

Officials of both PLDT and Benpres said the two companies would waive their rights to the additional rights offering in favor of new investors.

Server said both Benpres and PLDT were willing to have their combined stakes diluted even down to 40 percent in order to accommodate the new investors, as long as they could still maintain a significant management role.

Analysts said that given the tight financial conditions of Benpres and PLDT sister company Metro Pacific Corp., the two groups are not in the position to spend for the future funding requirements of the merged cable business. This was confirmed by Tria, who said: "Right now, the two companies are in difficult financial situation as stand-alone entities."

Server added that the two companies have aggregate cash shortfall of P800 million

With the cost-savings from the consolidation, however, Tria said Beyond Cable would be able to operate in the black in two to three years.

The officials would not say how much in fresh capital would be generated from the planned sale of new primary shares.

The merger is expected to result in savings of around P100 million to P150 million in operating costs and another P400 million in programming costs.

Intel's ₱1.4-B expansion gets perks

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE PHILIPPINE Economic Zone Authority has rejected Intel Corp.'s application for incentives as a new enterprise for its P1.412-billion project to manufacture packaging sets for microchips. Instead, Peza granted Intel the incentive package for expansion projects.

In its decision, Peza ruled that Intel's project was a mere expansion of its existing operations and not a new undertaking by the world's largest chipmaker.

Intel has proposed to manufacture flip chip pin grid array 2 (FCPGA2) and flip chip ball grid array 2 (FCBGA2) which the Peza board claimed was not entirely different from one of its existing activities in terms of machinery and equipment and manufacturing process, particularly the production of controlled collapse chip connect organic land grid array (C4/OLGA).

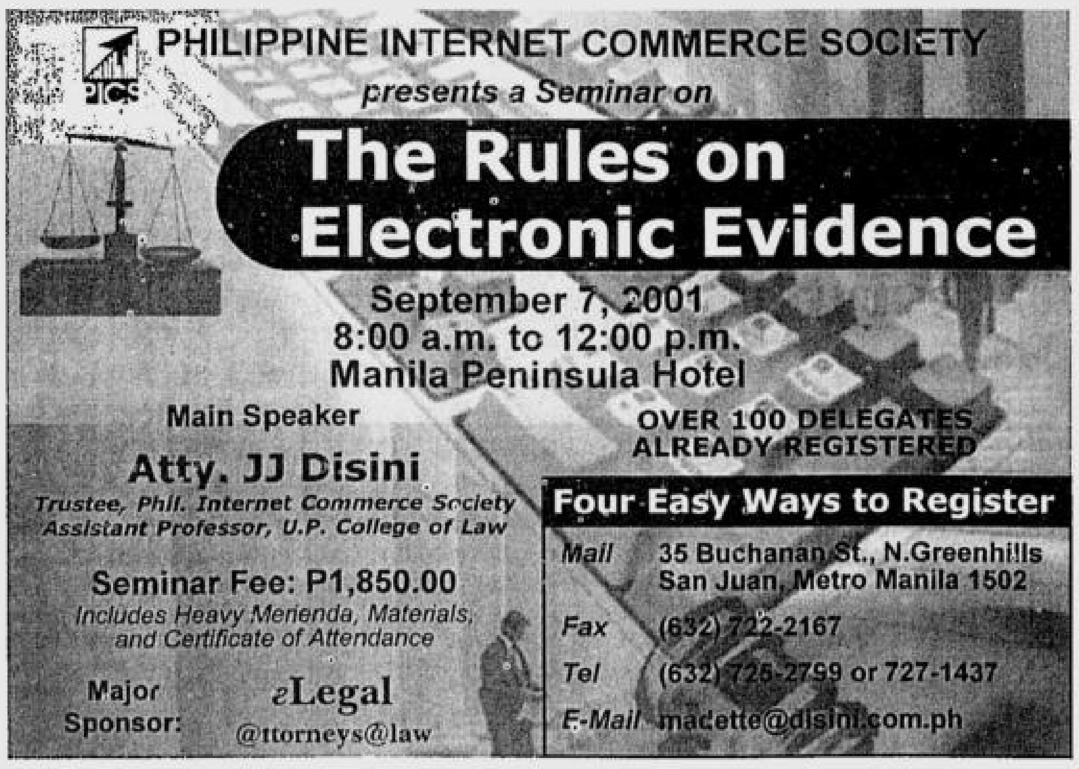
The original project was also registered and given incentives by Peza in 1995.

Intel had applied for the registration of its latest project as a new venture in order to enjoy better fiscal perks, such as a longer income tax holiday. With Peza's decision, Intel's project would be eligible only for a three-year income tax break on the additional sales of its C4/OLGA project. For the next five years, the expansion project will add P2.088 billion in annual sales and P97 million in annual profits.

The project comes on the heels of the recent visit of Intel Corp. president and CEO Craig Barrett to the Philippines. The Intel chief announced that the Philippines was chosen as the first assembly site for its newest manufacturing technology, Tualatin, that would pave the way for the production of faster microprocessors, lower power consumption, smaller size and wireless communication.

Intel has likewise been reported to be shifting part of its production of Pentium 4 processor chips from Latin America to the Philippines because it found that the Cavite plant is the company's most cost-competitive in the world.

The giant chipmaker, through its local subsidiary Intel Philippines Manufacturing Corp., is one of the biggest foreign investors in the country with total investments of nearly $1 billion since 1974.



PHILIPPINE INTERNET COMMERCE SOCIETY
presents a Seminar on
The Rules on Electronic Evidence
September 7, 2001
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Manila Peninsula Hotel
Main Speaker
Atty. JJ Disini
Trustee, Phil. Internet Commerce Society
Assistant Professor, U.P. College of Law
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PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS OF PERMANENT SAVINGS and LOAN BANK

Please take notice that the Liquidator will submit on September 13, 2001 at 8:30 a.m. to the Liquidation Court, Regional Trial Court of Manila, Branch 4, the Distribution Plan of Permanent Savings and Loan Bank, for approval.

NORBERTO C. NAZARENO
President and Chief Executive Officer
Liquidator, Permanent Savings and Loan Bank

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of **Alliance Global Group Inc.** authorized the company's acquisition of 729,999,945 shares of **First Centro Inc.** from **Pacific Millenium Holdings Inc.** and **Yorkshire Holdings Inc.** at P1.12 per share payable in 60 days. Also, **Alliance Global Group Inc.** elected new members of its board namely, Cherryll Yu and Alejo Villanueva. Reelected directors were George Yang, Danilo Utanes, Pauline Dolor Advincula, Eleizer Joaquin and Winston Co.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. yesterday inaugurated Smart's GSM Switch 2 in Cebu.

* * *

SUN Life Financial Services of Canada Inc. confirmed reports about its asset reunification program and its special share dealing program in the Philippines.

* * *

URBANCORP Realty Developers Inc. designated Reynaldo G. David as officer-in-charge of the company effective immediately pending the election of a new set of directors and officers.

* * *

EAST Asia Power Resources Corp. disclosed the resignation of Howard H. Edens as treasurer and chief financial officer of the company effective Aug. 10.

Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, August 22, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	63	63	62.5	63	45,100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32	33	32	33	800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	206	203	203	70,970
Philippine National Bank	51	51.5	51	51.5	328,300
Phil. Savings Bank	28	29	28	29	1,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.5	24.5	24.25	24.25	17,400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	243	243	243	243	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1455	1455	1450	1455	430
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1195	1195	1175	1175	1,300
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	35	35	35	35	10,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	3,690,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	640	640	640	1,450
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.036	0.037	0.036	0.037	3,400,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	40,000
Piltel	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	110,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	555	560	540	550	190,690
Ivantage Corp.	0.77	0.78	0.76	0.78	350,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.03	11,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	32.5	32.5	32	32	26,100
Manila Electric Co. B	43	43	42.5	43	1,299,400
Petron Corp.	1.86	1.88	1.84	1.86	1,606,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	70,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.02	2.06	1.98	1.98	1,052,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	2,070,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	12,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	90,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.2	1,262,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	1,477,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	126,100
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	25.5	26	25	26	66,800
Pure Foods Corp. A	75	75	75	75	200
RFM Corp.	2.3	2.32	2.3	2.3	330,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	68,500
San Miguel Corp. B	55.5	56	55.5	56	1,501,400
Universal Robina Corp.	4.7	4.9	4.7	4.9	98,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.66	0.66	0.65	0.65	210,000
Ayala Corp.	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	1,378,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	90,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.75	11	10.75	11	1,300
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.9	0.92	1,460,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	99,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	200,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	220,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.7	1.72	3,484,000
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	340,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	570,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	50,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	29	29	28.5	29	306,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,550,000
Ionics Inc.	11	11	11	11	6,600
Ipeople Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	17,000
Ipeople Inc. B	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.06	30,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.9	1.84	1.86	132,000
Medco Holdings	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	3,990,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.68	0.68	20,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5	5	5	5	243,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	880,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	350,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.8	5.1	4.8	5.1	15,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5	5	5	5	56,000
Music Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.48	64,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	180,000
Pryce Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	600,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.83	0.83	0.78	0.78	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	75,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHERS					
Belle Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	3,490,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	450,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	20,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	35	35.5	35	35	28,700
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	10.75	11	10.75	11	5,100
Globe Tel. A - Warrants	465	465	465	465	400
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	8,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
Philweb.Com,Inc -Warrants	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	54,900,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.75	4.75	4.55	4.6	6,924,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	500,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.2	960,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.36	0.33	0.34	11,140,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,110,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.06	2.06	1.96	1.98	3,196,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	300,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	800,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	10,000
Primex Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	25,000
Robinsons Land Corp:	2	2	2	2	7,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.1	2,137,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.0725	0.0725	0.07	0.0725	1,600,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	150,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	5,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.043	0.043	0.04	0.041	54,400,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	20,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	46,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	24,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.02	13,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.37	0.42	0.37	0.42	240,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	200,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.021	0.018	0.019	73,100,000
Interport Res.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	15,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	6,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	3,400,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	250,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	466,000	36,866,830.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	205,540,740	307,942,510.00
PRO	37,859,000	59,035,340.00
Mining	143,360,000	3,064,200.00
OIL	97,780,000	1,656,400.00
GRAND TOTALS :	485,059,740	408,738,080.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	536.16	DOWN 1.21
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,834.18	DOWN 5.48
PRO	488.35	DOWN 17.91
Mining	1,271.82	DOWN 9.50
OIL	1.67	UP 0.01
All Shares Index	765.30	DOWN 8.04
Composite	1,294.43	DOWN 12.23

NO. OF ADVANCES: 24; NO. OF DECLINES: 38; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 50; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 112 NO. OF TRADES: 1,995

CURRENCIES

Aug. 22, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.089799	1.000000	51.3290
Japan	Yen	0.009116	0.008365	0.4294
United Kingdom	Pound	1.584350	1.453800	74.6221
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.139723	0.128210	6.5809
Switzerland	Franc	0.658569	0.604303	31.0183
Canada	Dollar	0.704233	0.646204	33.1690
Singapore	Dollar	0.622209	0.570939	29.3057
Australia	Dollar	0.578696	0.531011	27.2563
Bahrain	Dinar	2.890869	2.652661	136.1584
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.290597	0.266652	13.6870
Brunei	Dollar	0.618220	0.567279	29.1179
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000128	0.000117	0.0060
Thailand	Baht	0.024402	0.022391	1.1493
UAE	Dirham	0.296786	0.272331	13.9785
Korea	Won	0.000855	0.000785	0.0403
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.917600	47.0995
Germany	Mark	0.511291	0.469161	24.0816
France	Franc	0.152450	0.139887	7.1803
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.416389	21.3728
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066685	3.4229
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022747	1.1676
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000474	0.0243
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.154329	7.9216
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004577	0.2349
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005515	0.2831
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022747	1.1676
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.165112	59.8040

DOTC chief questions cut in 'free texts'

By Abigail L. Ho

TRANSPORTATION Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said yesterday he was having "reservations" over a plan by the country's biggest mobile phone companies to cut the number of free "text messages" they were offering to their customers.

"I have my reservations about it because it will result in an additional burden for the public," Alvarez said in an interview.

He said he had already asked National Telecommunications Commission chief Eliseo Rio to review Globe Telecom Corp.'s and Smart Communications Inc.'s plan to provide 60-percent fewer free text messages.

Alvarez said Globe and Smart had shown good financial returns in the first six months of the year, so there was no clear reason why they would move to effectively raise their fees.

"We need to have an extensive hearing about this. We need to find out whether or not their proposal is justified," he said.

Globe's and Smart's plan to cut the number of free text messaging they were providing has met stiff opposition from consumers groups.

There has been a campaign to boycott the two mobile phone firms on Sept. 1.

The NTC's Rio said earlier he had no authority to block the plan as short messaging services were deregulated.

"All rates that have to do with SMS are deregulated. They (cellular phone companies) can impose high rates, but they'll force themselves out of the market," he said.

Globe had said it had been using rates established two years ago, when the peso was at around 40 to a dollar.

"We've kept the rate per message at P1. In other countries, one text message would cost you around P4 to P7. They have the same equipment we have," Globe senior vice president Gil Genio said in an interview.

He said Globe spent a lot of money on equipment to make sure that its network would be able to handle the volume of traffic that passes through it every day.

Both prepaid and post-paid customers will be affected by the free-text reduction plan.

Gov't debts up 6% in May, BTr reports

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Treasury said yesterday the national government's debt stock as of May rose 15.17 percent to P2.239 billion from P1.922 trillion in the same period last year.

Month-on-month, the debt stock rose 1.3 percent from P2.21 trillion in April, according to data from the BTr.

These figures suggested that every Filipino owed the government's creditors P29,500, up by P4,000 year-on-year and P400 month-on-month.

The debt stock reported by the Treasury covered both local and foreign borrowings. Excluded were the liabilities of the private sector, which statistics released by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas covered.

An official familiar with the matter said the government's debt stock grew in the first five months of the year because of the Macapagal-administration's dependence on domestic borrowing to keep its budget deficit under control.

The government borrows about P7 billion a week from the private sector through treasury bills and bonds.

The Treasury's data showed that local borrowings grew by P13.2 billion to P1.8 trillion in May from the previous month's P1.768 trillion.

Foreign-denominated loans, meanwhile, slid to P439.895 billion in May from April's P440.839 billion.

Alliance Global to spend ₱800M on new factory

ALLIANCE Global Group Inc. said yesterday that it was spending around P800 million to put up a new juice manufacturing plant in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

In an interview, Alliance Global vice chair Winston Co said Alliance Global had already spent some P400 million to purchase a 10-hectare property in Sta. Rosa for the manufacturing plant. The company would spend another P300 million to P400 million to build the factory, he told reporters.

Alliance Global is owned by Chinese-Filipino businessman George Yang, who holds the Philippine franchise for fast-food giant McDonald's Corp.

Co said the Sta. Rosa, Laguna, factory would be Alliance Global's first in the Philippines for its food and beverage business, as it already had facilities in the United States following its acquisition of McKester Pik-Nik International Ltd.

He said Alliance Global was still determining which of McKester's juice products it would manufacture in Laguna.

Doris C. Dumlao

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the Solid Bank Cert. #A008234 under the name of Sonia Susana S. Crisol was lost. If no contest received new cert. will be issued.
(PDI- Aug 16, 23 & 30, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **Paz Conchita L. Enciso** has been the subject of an extrajudicial settlement on August 14, 2001, by and among her heirs per Doc No. 20, Page 5, Book II, Series of 2001 of Atty. Ana Rhia V. Largo.
(PDI-Aug. 16, 23 & 30, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **JAIME S. LETAN** Located at Mandaluyong City has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc 435, Page 88, Book 57, Series of 2001 by Notary Public Sofronio A. Hernandez of Batangas City.
(PDI-Aug. 9,16 & 23, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given to the public that sales invoice (confirmation) Engine No. 2C059618 of Teofila Macapagal is declared lost.

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

THANK YOU SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

DERENG T. ALIH
Petitioner,

- versus - **SSC Case No. 5-14183-94**

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM and JUL-ASPHE ALIH, JULIE ALIH and JUN ALIH,
Respondents,

x -- x

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

TO: **JUL-ASPHE ALIH**
JULIE ALIH and
JUN ALIH

GREETINGS:

Notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of July, 2001, a **RESOLUTION**, consisting of nine (9) pages, was promulgated in the above-mentioned case, the disposition portion of which reads as follows:

> "**WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED**, this Commission finds, and so holds, that SSS member Julain T. Alih died on July 5, 1989 and that petitioner Dereng T. Alih is entitled to the SS benefit accruing from his death in her capacity as secondary beneficiary.
>
> The SSS is hereby directed to immediately pay the petitioner the appropriate lump sum death benefit, subject to its existing rules and regulations.
>
> SO ORDERED."

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI – Aug. 23, 2001)

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  - ○ Must have 8-15 hrs. of clinical education

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Telephone Nos. 889-4937/889-4938/889-2879/751-5298
E-mail address: concorde@compass.com.ph

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Davao City - 082-222-6475
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Nueva Ecija - 044-3110218
Dagupan City - 075-5156156
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BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS
(In compliance only with RA 7041)

PHOTOGRAPHER II, SG-07, Item No. NCCAC-PHOTO2-1-1998. High School graduate or completion of relevant vocational/trade course. Eligibility: Photographer (MC#11,s. 1996-Cat. II).

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SERVICES
City of Legazpi

INVITATION TO BID

The City Government of Legazpi is inviting all authorized distributors/dealers of Garbage Compactor to participate in our forthcoming public bidding for the supply of

QUANTITY	SPECIFICATIONS
5 units	6-Tonner Garbage Compactor (Second hand)

The sealed proposal shall be accepted, evaluated and publicly opened at the General Services Office, City Hall Compound, City of Legazpi until 2:00 P.M. on **September 3, 2001.**

Each bid shall be accompanied by a bidder's proposal bond in Cash or Certified Check in the amount equivalent to 5% (five percent) of the bid price offered or a surety bond in the amount equivalent to 10% (ten percent) of the bid price offered.

The price quotation shall be in the Philippine Currency and shall include all government taxes, fees, or duties and other incidental expenses.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defects therein or to accept such bids as may be found most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ROLEO R. BATTUNG
General Services Officer

(PDI - Aug. 23, 24 & 25, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that the Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc. (PSE) has approved the application of **PJB PACIFIC SECURITIES (PHILS) INC.** for voluntary suspension of trading operations.

Accordingly, PJB Pacific Securities (Phils) Inc. has endorsed and forwarded all its accounts to its designated broker, **BA SECURITIES, INC.** to handle the distribution of shares to their beneficial owners.

Thus, effective **31 August 2001**, kindly course all your concerns and queries to:

George C. Cabo Cheng
VP Marketing
Trading Floor #891-9672/73/75
Nerissa Lledo-Head of Settlements
BA SECURITIES, INC.
Suite 401-703 CLMC Bldg.
259-269 EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City
TEL.#s 727-5374, 726-7209
FAX # 722-0132

National Power Corporation

Date : August 8, 2001
Reference No. :T2-P01-345

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Project: **Sp98.KBSS.Vt-0233, Construction, Erection and Installation of 138 & 69 kV Substation Equipment for Schedule I - Kabankalan S/S in Negros, Occidental.**
2. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all construction plant, labor, materials, supplies, tools and equipment (except materials and equipment specified to be furnished by NPC), constructing complete the 50MVA Substation.

   Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid:

   Schedule I - Kabankalan S/S - P74,642,089.00
3. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino contractors with the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB.

   License Particular:
   Schedule I - Kabankalan S/S Category AAA - General Engineering

   Registration Particular:
   Schedule I - Kabankalan S/S - Large B - Specialty: Electrical Works
4. Application for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by NPC in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding; and shall be subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
5. Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting **August 31, 2001** at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, Second floor, Building No. 2, NPC-OBC, National Power Corporation, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-23-08 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, original PCAB License and payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per copy.

   Cor. Quezon Avenue and Agham Road,
   Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
   Telephone: (632) 921-3541 to 921-3580
   Facsimile: (632) 921-2468; 924-5464
   P.O. Box 1335 E-mail: diliman@napocor.com.ph
   Internet: http://www.napocor.com.ph
6. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before **October 1, 2001** and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
7. NPC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality there in, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
8. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **A.T. CORPUZ**
Chairman
Contracts Award Committee

(PDI – Aug. 23 & 25, 2001)

Philippine Carabao Center
Department of Agriculture

Headquarters and Gene Pool
Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines 3120
Fax: 63 (044) 456-0730
Tel.: 63 (044) 456-0731 to 34
Email: pcc-oed@mozcom.com

Manila Liaison Office
5F, DCIEC Bldg., NIA Compd., EDSA,
Quezon City, Phils. 0830
Tel/Fax: 63 (2) 921-3565
63 (2) 926-7707
Email: pcc-mla@mozcom.com

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) invites interested Information Technology (IT) companies to pre-qualify and to bid for the procurement and delivery of:

Local Area Network (LAN) Equipment

Pre-qualification requirements can be secured from Mr. Eduardo Dalusong, at the PCC National Headquarters & Genepool Office, Maharlika Highway, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija 3120 and Mr. Rogel dela Cuesta at PCC Manila Liaison Office, 5F DCIEC Bldg., NIA Compound, EDSA, Quezon City starting on August 28, 2001. Last day of submission of pre-qualification documents will be on August 30, 2001.

Only those who submitted pre-qualification documents are allowed to attend the pre-bidding conference on September 5, 2001, 2:00 P.M. at PCC National Headquarters & Genepool Office, Maharlika Highway, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. Those who failed to attend the pre-bidding conference are disqualified to participate in the bidding.

Sealed bids shall be received by the PCC National Headquarters & Genepool Office not later than September 12, 2001, 2:00 P.M. at the same address. Only pre-qualified bidders will be allowed to attend the bidding proper.

The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) reserves the right to reject any all bids, waive any formality in such bids, and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **LIBERTADO C. CRUZ**
Executive Director

(PDI - Aug. 22 & 23, 2001)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Telefax No. 711-95-02 to 03

August 20, 2001

INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB No. 2001-08-21 [4]

The Department of Health (DOH) hereby announces the re-scheduling of submission and opening of bids for **Various Pharmaceuticals (IFB No. 2001-08-21 [4])** scheduled on **August 21, 2001 to August 31, 2001, 9 a.m.** at the San Lazaro Amphitheatre, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Only duly accredited drug suppliers/manufacturers and/or exclusive distributors as certified by the DOH Accreditation Committee for Drugs & Medicines Suppliers are qualified to participate in this bidding.

Copy of the list of Drugs and Medicines with specifications and quantities are available at the Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), Bldg. 26, DOH, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Issuance of bidding documents is extended to August 30, 2001 upon payment of non-refundable fee of two thousand (P2,000) Pesos only and upon presentation of 1) Authenticated DOH Supplier's Accreditation Certificate with the list of accredited products, and 2) Authenticated BFAD License to Operate. Certificate of Product Registration is no longer required for participating in bidding but, is a requirement for the Issuance of Notice of Award. For further information, please contact the Procurement Division, PLS. at 743-83-01 locals 3626, 3627 or 711-6831.

The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to amend the bidding process and to reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the Department of Health.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH, CESO II**
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - August 23, 2001)

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sbma BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
Tel. Nos. (047) 252-4270, 4214, 4124 • Fax No. (047) 252-4284

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The **SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY ("SBMA")**, through the Bids and Awards Committee ("PBAC") invites duly registered Firms, Suppliers/Contractors to pre-qualify to a public bidding for the following:

ONE (1) UNIT TRACTOR HEAD, 6X4 (10 WHEELER)
ONE (1) UNIT CRASH FIRE RESCUE TRUCK, 8X8
ONE (1) UNIT AMBULANCE, WITH ADVANCE LIFE SUPPORT GEARS AND ACCESSORIES
ONE (1) UNIT DEFRIBILLATOR WITH COMPLETE ACCESSORIES
ONE (1) UNIT ELECTRO CARDIO GRAPH (ECG) MACHINE

The following documents are necessary for the pre-qualification as a supplier/contractor for the above-mentioned public bidding:

1. Article of Incorporation
2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
3. VAT Registration
4. Certificate of Registration with the Department of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
5. Valid Mayor's Permit
6. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (certified true copy in sealed envelope)
7. Presence of Exclusive/Authorized/Sole Distributorship Agreement with reputable firms in the industry, document duly notarized at the point of origin.
8. Company PROFILE
9. List of Product
10. List of Clients
11. Non-refundable Pre-qualification Fee (P200.00)

Submission of the above pre-qualification documents is until 5:00 p.m. of **August 31, 2001** (Friday), at the BAC Secretariat, PPMD Office, Room 201, Building 255, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Firms qualified by the SBMA and dates for the Pre-Bid Conference and Submission/Opening of Bids shall be announced through Bid Bulletin.

The SBMA assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any firm for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of pre-qualification requirements. The decision of the SBMA on who are qualified to bid shall be final and binding.

ATTY. RIZAL V. KATALBAS JR.
Secretary, BAC

(PDI – Aug. 22, 23 & 24, 2001)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

P.O. Box 789, Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. 632-4217; Fax No. (632) 636-2567
E-mail: adjusupbekova@adb.org or fpalabrica@adb.org

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION TO BID FOR PROVISION OF LOCAL COMPUTER BACK-UP SITE FACILITIES AND SERVICES
(ADB/OAS-2001/023)

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for prequalification to bid for the provision of local computer back-up site facilities and services. The Contractor shall provide the facilities and services to enable ADB to resume its Mainframe and/or SWIFT and/or ERP/INTEGRA processing in the event that its computer facilities become inaccessible. The local back-up site must be located within Metro Manila, Philippines.

2. Prequalification documents may be obtained from the Head, Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 4223W, at the above address from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on any working day starting from **27 to 31 August 2001** upon presentation of the receipt of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Two Hundred (P200.00) at ADB Cash Room, Room G239W.

3. Last day for submission of application for prequalificaiton is **11 September 2001**.

4. Only prequalified bidders shall be invited to participate in the bidding exercise to be conducted by the ADB. Bid documents will be issued to prequalified bidders from **3-4 October 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Three Hundred (P300.00) payable in cash or check to the ADB.

5. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of the ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of prequalification documents shall be borne solely by the bidder. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications for prequalification without incurring any liability or any obligation to inform the affected applicant/s of the grounds for ADB's action.

Chairman
Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

(PDI – Aug. 23 & 24, 2001)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will conduct a prequalification of prospective bidders for the REPLACEMENT OF DEFECTIVE PLASTEEL WINDOW PANELS AT THE MULTI-AND 5-STOREY BUILDINGS, BSP MAIN COMPLEX, complete specifications of which may be secured from the Manager II, Procurement Division II, Administrative Services Department, Rm. 213, 2nd Floor, 5-storey Building, Tel. Nos. 523-64-27/525-0048:

For prequalification purposes, interested bidders must submit/comply with the following requirements:

1. Supplier/Fabricator/Installer must be in the business for at least five years;
2. Must have completed at least three major projects costing at least P3M per project within the last five (5) years, copy of contract of which should indicate the name of the project, owner and architect.
3. Must submit proof of satisfactory performance from three (3) major clients within the last three (3) years.

The above requirements, together with photocopies of documents listed below (original copies of items 1 and 2 to be presented for authentication purposes), shall be submitted to the Disbursement Control Committee thru the Administrative Services Department not later than **SEPTEMBER 7, 2001**.

1. Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers of the bidder;
2. 2000 audited Financial Statements (Balance Sheet & Income Statement) of the bidder;
3. 2000 Income Tax Return of the bidder; and
4. Company history/profile of the bidder.

Only those who comply with the above requirements and are prequalified by the Bank will be invited to participate in the actual bidding which will be conducted on a later date to be advised to prequalified bidders.

The two envelope systems shall be adopted in the bidding.

The BSP hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defects or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

FOR THE DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS**
Officer-In-Charge
Administrative Services Department

(PDI – Aug. 23, 2001)

OBITUARIES

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

DOMINGO TUASON ADRIANO, M.D., FPCS

1915 - 2001
U.S.T. – Medical Class 1941
USAFFE Bataan Veteran (Captain)
Silliman University Medical Center Surgeon, 1950 - 1990

Peacefully joined his Creator on 20 August 2001 at the age of 86.

His loving wife **Narcita V. Javier**; children **Jose Edgardo** and **Annabelle Lee, Mercedes Antonia** and **Peter Porras, Alfredo** and **Norma Ruiz**; grandchildren **Ana Joaquina, Carlo, Nicole** and **Paloma,** and **Karina Natalia**; brothers and sisters request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Eterna Memorial Chapels, Dumaguete City.

Interment will be on Thursday, 23 August 2001 at the Dumaguete Memorial Park after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass at the Redemptorist Church.

ANTONIO UY LEE

of Guagua, Pampanga

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 20, 2001
at the age of 83 in Toronto, Canada.

His bereaved family, wife **Francisca**; children **Rosario Cancio** and **Mila, Edel, Resty** and **Ging, Mira, Noli** and **Ida,** and **Alma**; grandchildren, sister, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 25, 2001, 12:00 noon at Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery, Woodbridge, Ontario, Canada.

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MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361
811-4370

KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

VIRGINIA MANIO ILETO

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on August 21, 2001 at the age of 83.

Her bereaved brother **Rafael**; and his wife **Yrna**; nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment to be announced later.

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In Loving Memory of

Brig. Gen. Hans M. Menzi

Philanthropist. Industrialist
Businessman. Sportsman.
Publisher. Civic Leader.
Soldier. Aviator.
Filipino

Founder
Menzi Trust Fund, Inc.

on his 91st Birthday, August 23, 1910.
Holy Masses will be offered at 10:00 a.m. today
at the Menzi head office, 20th Floor, Security Bank Centre
6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City,
and in the following churches:

Basilica of the Immaculate Concepcion	*Intramuros, Manila*	**7:30 AM**
Malate Catholic Church	*Malate, Manila*	**7:00 AM**
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene	*Quiapo, Manila*	**7:00 AM**
San Agustin Church	*Intramuros, Manila*	**7:00 AM**
Santuario de San Antonio	*Forbes Park, Makati City*	**7:30 AM**
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace	*EDSA corner Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City*	**7:30 AM**
St. John Bosco Parish	*Arnaiz Street, Makati City*	**6:30 AM**
St. Vincent de Paul Parish	*Ermita, Manila*	**7:15 AM**
St. Joseph Parish Bamboo Organ Church	*Las Piñas City*	**6:00 AM**
Sta. Cruz Parish	*Sta. Cruz, Manila*	**8:30 AM**

The Menzi Family requests all pious readers
to remember him in their prayers.

CLEMENTE "Minting" Ma. ABAYA

Former Mayor of Candon, Ilocos Sur
Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on August 21, 2001 at the age of 95.

Deceased wife **Josefa F. Lumba Abaya** (†); loving daughter **Socorro Abaya Cabrera**; son-in-law **Mike Cabrera**; grandchildren, great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the family residence at Candon, Ilocos Sur.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 25, 2001
after the morning Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ATTY. NUMERIO S. DECLARO

who joined his Creator on August 8, 2001

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

DR. VALENTE L. PEJI

May 21, 1938 — August 21, 2001

His wife **AIDA**; children **ANNABELLE, VALERIE** and **ALEX**
their spouses and grandchildren request the pious readers
to say a little prayers for the repose of his soul.
The body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc.,
Guadalupe, Makati City.
Interment will be at Himlayang Pilipino.
(Date and time will be announced later)

FELIPE REYES ADUANA

Peacefully joined his Creator
on August 18, 2001 at the age of 64.

His bereaved wife **Normita**; and son **Hardy**, wife **Lea**; grandchildren **Mikko, Dindin, Ida**; sisters **Viring** and **Ada**; relatives and friends request the readers to pray for his eternal joy in heaven.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 25, 2001 at the Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at the Resurrection 3, Arlington Memorial Chapels.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

R.I.P.

TERNORA "Nory" POLICARPIO - ROJAS

May 9, 1945 - August 17, 2001

Dearest **Mommy**,

When I was two years old, my father, **Arthur Rojas**, died. I never had the opportunity to miss him, because ever since his death, you and I have been always together and your presence and your unequalled attention have more than filled up my longing for a father. As I held your hand and painfully watching your precious life slowly slipping away, the feeling of loneliness suddenly crept upon me and I begun to be afraid. But you have always taught me to be strong, you have prepared me for life's endless adversities and I cannot afford to be weak and lonely at this time of despair.

I am only just lucky that I still have my grandmother, **Priscila D. Policarpio**, your brothers and sisters, my husband, **Leo T. Lagon** and my children, **Louie** and **Alyssa**, who have been the source of my endless strength and courage.

In accordance with your wishes Your mortal remains will arrive in Manila, on Thursday, August 23, 2001 at about 8:00 p.m. You will lie in state at the Sanctuario de San Jose Mortuary in Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila from August 24, 2001 until August 27, 2001. At about 2:00 p.m. of August 27, 2001 you will be transferred to the Multi-Purpose Hall of Admiral Village in Taytay, Rizal. On August 28, 2001, at 9:00 a.m., Holy Mass will be offered at the St. John the Baptist Church in Taytay, Rizal after which, I shall bring you to your final resting place at the Sto. Rosario Memorial Park also in Taytay, Rizal.

Goodbye mommy. Please hug daddy for me when you will finally meet him. Thank you for your love, sacrifices and patience. I will always reserve a special place for you in my heart.

With all my love:
Anna Marie "Luchie" Rojas-Lagon

IN LOVING MEMORY
ON THE SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY
OF

EDWIN JOSEPH MALLARI LOPEZ

Who passed on to eternal life on August 22, 1999.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at the following Churches:

August 22, 2001

Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel	Tayabas, Quezon	6:00 AM
St. Ferdinand Cathedral	Lucena City	6:00 AM 6:00 PM
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish	Iyam, Lucena City	5:30 PM
Monastery of St. Claire	Sariaya, Quezon	6:00 AM
Parish of St. Francis of Assissi	Sariaya, Quezon	6:00 AM
Mt. Carmel Seminary	Sariaya, quezon	6:00 AM & 6:00 PM
San Isidro de Labrador Church	Pulilan, Bulacan	6:00 AM
St. Lawrence Parish Church	Balagtas, Bulacan	6:00 AM
Santuario de San Antonio	Forbes Park, Makati	7:30 AM
St. James the Great Parish	Ayala Alabang Village	6:00 PM
St. Jerome Emiliani, St. Susana Parish	Alabang Town Center	6:00 PM
Mary the Queen Parish	Greenhills, San Juan	6:00 AM
Santuario de San Jose	Greenhills, San Juan	7:00 AM
Mt. Carmel Church	Broadway, Quezon City	6:00 PM
St. Lorenzo Ruiz Church	Binondo, Manila	5:30 PM
Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord	SM Megamall	12:15 PM & 6:00 PM
Christ the King Parish	Greenmeadows, Quezon City	6:00 AM, 7:00 AM & 7:00 PM

We, his parents **Ernie & Fritzie Lopez;**
Wife **Shiela** and son **Carlos Miguel;**
Brother **John-John;** and sister **Cathy,**
request readers, relatives and friends
to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

With Fondest Memories of Love
on the Second Death Anniversary
of

Pascual A. Bayona Sr.

August 23, 2001

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by his wife Ofelia; his children and their spouses; grandchildren, his sisters and relatives.

Masses will be offered at the following churches:

Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag	*Pangasinan*	7:00 AM
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish	*Surallah, South Cotabato*	7:00 AM
Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Parish	*Banga, South Cotabato*	4:00 PM
St. Thomas Parish Church	*Ontario, Canada*	5:00 PM
St. Aquinas Parish Church	*Toronto, Canada*	5:00 AM
Sto. Niño Parish Church	*Sto. Niño, Meycauayan, Bulacan*	6:00 PM
Miñor Basilica of the Black Nazarene	*St. John the Baptist Parish* *Quiapo, Manila*	6:00 PM
Forest Park	*Caloocan City*	August 25, 2001 3:00 PM

Our many thanks to all who keep him in their memory.

BETTY G. NGO

Director of SOLANDA ENTERPRISES, INC.
AND GROUP OF COMPANIES

Peacefully joined our LORD on August 22, 2001
at the age of 50.

Her beloved brothers and sisters **Luisa, Lusen** (†), **Tomas, Antonio, Jose, Vicente, Lilian**; nephews and niece, friends and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 1, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Tomas Mapua Street, Manila.

Interment will be announced later.

"My soul finds rest in God alone
from Him comes my salvation."
Psalms 62:2

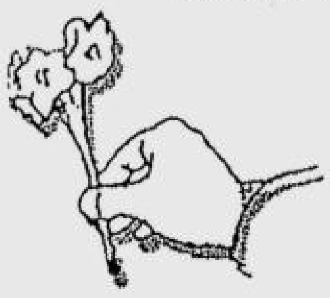
PROSPERO R. OLIVAS, JR.

Has serenely joined the Lord in His Kingdom and
his parents ***Gen. Prospero A. Olivas (Ret.)*** *and* ***Dr. Lita Ramos-Olivas***
on August 19, 2001 at the age of 39.

His loving wife **CITAS**; beloved daughter **PATRICIA**; **Tito Romy** and **Tita Gloria Olivas** and their children; his siblings **J.J.** and **Thelma**, **Chato** and **Joenard**, **Ben Hur** and **Rose**, **Mon** and **Esther**, **Carmen** and **Ron**, and their children; cousin **Boots Olivas**; uncles, aunts, nephews and nieces find comfort in the assurance that their beloved "***Popoy***" is now safely in the arms of the Lord.

His body lies in state at Father Willmann Suite, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Funeral Mass will be on Saturday, August 25, 2001 at 8:00 AM. Interment will be after the Mass at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.



On her ***SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY***
we lovingly remember
***MOMMY**, WHO IS*
***FOREVER** IN OUR HEARTS...*
***SORELY MISSED** BY ALL OF US.*

ENCARNACION "NENA" LOVINA TICZON

(**wife of the late Atty. Romeo Reyes Ticzon, Sr. and eldest daughter** of the **late Statesman Don Primitivo "Tibing" Lovina, Sr.** and the **late Doña Ruperta Herrero Lovina**)

1997 Gintong Sikap Awardee
(Federation of Filipino Consumers, Inc.)

1997 Gintong Ina Awardee
(Parangal ng Bayan Awards)

1997 Highest Achievement Awardee
(New Life on Family Development & Youth Council, Inc.)

1998 Golden Heart Public Service Awardee
(Development of Filipino Youth, Inc.)

who died in the Grace of our Lord on August 23, 1999 3:40 AM at Makati Medical Center at the age of 78.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches today, August 23, 2001

National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary *Sto. Domingo, Quezon City*	***5:00 AM***
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene *Quiapo, Manila*	***6:00 AM***
Mt. Carmel Shrine *Doña J. Rodriguez St., New Manila, Quezon City*	***6:00 AM***
St. Francis Parish Church *Shaw Boulevard, Greenhills*	***6:00 AM***
Sanctuario de San Antonio *McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati*	***6:15 AM***
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church *Magallanes Village, Makati City*	***6:15 AM***
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish *Kalayaan Ave., Bel-Air II, Makati City*	***6:30 AM***
Immaculate Concepcion Parish *P. Burgos St., Antipolo, Rizal*	***6:30 AM***
Parish of Our Lady of Fatima *Rodriguez Ave. & Capinpin St., Bangkal, Makati*	***6:30 AM***
Redemptorist Church *Baclaran, Manila*	***6:45 AM***
St. John Bosco Parish *Arnaiz St., Makati City*	***7:30 AM***
Shrine of Mary Queen of Peace *Our Lady of EDSA, Quezon City*	***12:15 PM***
Harrison Plaza Chapel *Harrison Plaza Shopping City, Malate, Manila*	***5:30 PM***
Malate Catholic Church *2000 M.H. del Pilar, Malate, Manila*	***6:00 PM***
Mary the Queen Parish *Madison St., Greenhills, San Juan*	***6:00 PM***
Christ the King Parish *Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City*	***6:00 PM***
Our Lady of Assumption Parish *Asuncion St., Malate, Manila*	***6:15 PM***
Sanctuario de San Jose *Greenhills, Mandaluyong City*	***6:15 PM***

Her CHILDREN, IN-LAWS, GRANDCHILDREN and GREAT GRANDCHILDREN,

- ***JULIETA***
- ***ROMEO, JR.*** *and LEONY DASCO and their children ROSSANA, ARLENE, VINCENT, ADOLF and JULIUS*
- ***OPHELIA*** *and BENNY CLEMENTE and their daughters JACLYN, RACHELLE and SUZANNE*
- ***OTHELLO*** *and LIZA ROÑO and their children RAYMUND and ABIGAIL, MA. LUISA, MILAGROS, MELISSA, TANIA ISABEL and ROMEO III*
- ***BELEN*** *and ANTONIO V. MARTEL, JR. and their daughter ANTONIA*
- ***ROSSINA***
- ***LOURDES*** *and EDGAR MARTIN and their children MIGUEL, ANTONIO and DEIRDRÉ*
- ***PORTIA*** *and RAMON B. SANTOS and their children RAPHAEL, PAULINE and GABRIEL*
- ***RUBEN*** *(deceased).*

STEPMOTHER-IN-LAW, *NELLY MONTILLA VDA.. DE LOVINA,*

BROTHERS,	*TEDDY H. LOVINA and* *NONIE M. LOVINA,*	***SISTERS,***	*NING LOVINA-VILLAR and* *CHING LOVINA-ACOSTA,*
BROTHERS-IN-LAW,	*BERT ACOSTA and* *CONRADO R. TICZON,*	***SISTERS-IN-LAW,***	*DING MATIAS VDA. DE LOVINA,* *SYLVIA RICARD-LOVINA,* *NORMA DE GUZMAN VDA. DE LOVINA,* *ISABEL VALLES-LOVINA and* *MARYLOU PRIETO VDA. DE LOVINA*

WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND THEIR SINCEREST THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO KEEP HER IN THEIR PRAYERS.

Fed cuts key rates

But Asian stocks mainly lower

WASHINGTON—Federal Reserve policymakers, trying to pump energy into a stubbornly slow US economy, sliced a quarter point off interest rates Tuesday in their seventh cut this year.

Members of the Federal Open Market Committee trimmed the benchmark federal funds rate by 25 basis points to 3.50 percent, a full three percentage points below the rate at the start of this year.

They simultaneously lowered the largely symbolic discount point by a quarter point to 3 percent.

Most Asian share markets, however, slipped after the Fed signaled it expected further gloom for the world's largest economy, but local factors helped Japan and Korea to end higher.

The Fed statement, suggesting continued economic weakness, left the way open to further rate cuts.

Falling in line, major US commercial banks announced they would cut the prime lending rate for top customers to 6.5 percent from 6.75 percent, effective Wednesday.

Despite favorable long-term prospects, the US economy was at risk, the FOMC said in a statement.

"The risks are weighted mainly toward conditions that may generate economic weakness in the foreseeable future," it said, opening the door to a cut at the next meeting Oct. 2.

Some investors had been hoping for a bigger cut or a more encouraging Fed statement, said First Union Securities economist Rod Smyth. But the underlying drag was weak company profits.

"Second quarter earnings were frankly much worse than even pessimists like myself were expecting," he told AFP.

Federal Reserve policymakers pointed in their statement to weak business profits and investment and the impact of slowing global growth on the US economy.

US economic growth, hampered by falling business investment amid carnage in the high technology sector, stalled to a mere 0.7 percent in the second quarter.

That figure may be revised lower this month, possibly even showing a contraction, analysts say.

"The economy is on a knife-edged cliff," said Swiss Re chief US economist Kurt Karl.

"If consumer confidence collapses, the economy will fall into recession. If confidence is sustained, we will avoid the abyss and have, at most, one quarter of falling activity," he added.

Asia and Wall Street were not quite as prepared for the Fed's signal that it was poised to trim rates further because of persistent weakness in the economy.

That comment prompted a 2.66-percent fall in the Nasdaq and pessimism across most of Asia. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was 1.43 percent weaker at 11,277.01 in early trade while Taiwan's Taiex lost 1.65 percent to end at 4,487.52.

"The Fed's comments suggest the economy is crummy," said Cummins Catherwood, who oversees $750 million for US money management firm Rutherford Brown and Catherwood. *AFP and Reuters*

BSP sees another reserves hike

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday it would likely keep its overnight rates steady this week despite a cut in the US Federal Reserve's key rates, but it was not ruling out another hike in commercial banks' liquidity reserves.

"We'll likely keep rates unchanged. While we have seen a stabilization of the inflation rate, it is still relatively high. We would want to keep the stance of the monetary policy where it is right now," BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco said.

The central bank's overnight borrowing rate is at 9 percent and the lending rate at 11.25 percent.

Tetangco said, however, that the BSP was not ruling out another hike for commercial banks' liquidity reserves while it continued to assess the liquidity situation in light of the peso volatility.

"We're still monitoring the liquidity situation," he said.

The liquidity reserve requirement now stands at 11 percent, after a two-percentage-point hike on Aug. 10.

"We welcome the Fed cut. It is important that we see a strengthening of the US economy because emerging markets like the Philippines has the United States as its trading partner."

Consumer prices in the Philippines rose 6.8 percent year-on-year in July.

Tetangco however said he expected tamer inflation in months ahead.

"We expect inflation will be on a downward trend in months ahead, moving toward closer to 5 percent by the end of the year," he said. *Reuters*

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MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Enlightening e-mail

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

ONE of the rewards of writing this column is its enlightening aspect. Sometimes you get enlightened by readers who e-mail you their gripes about the current motoring scene. For example:

Double standard in towing illegally parked vehicles. A reader identifying himself as "Mr. Malcontent" listed the double standard of traffic law enforcers as one of several reasons he hates to drive in Metro Manila: "Those dirty, beat-up tow trucks in Makati will tow everything, it seems. Even if you happen to idle for just a few seconds, they will tie a chain on your car's underbelly. But along Gamboa Street, in front of the Metrobank branch beside AIM, Lincolns, Jaguars and other huge luxury cars as well as their back-up Nissan Patrols, E150s etc. virtually park all day along no-parking zones in this very busy street, but the police just turn a blind eye."

Virtually parking all day is virtual reality in Makati, Mr. Malcontent. Maybe the police pretend not to see because they think that the drivers of those huge luxury cars are armed and dangerous.

Unruly pedicab drivers. Reader Romulo S. Romero wants to call the attention of Manila City Hall to the unruly pedicab drivers plying the Estrada/Taft and Vito Cruz/Taft route: "These pedicabs go against traffic without regard for oncoming traffic and in the process create bottlenecks. Ironically, they do this at the height of traffic when vehicles are bringing and picking up students from St. Scholastica's College, St. Benilde and De La Salle University. Manila politicians promise so many things but fail to address basic peace and order issues such as these. In the meantime, you have excavating equipment blocking all traffic along Vito Cruz with the big sign: 'Project of Cong. Joey Hizon' with hardly any sign of any digging or drainage cleaning going on."

Manila is famous for abandoned excavations and pedicab drivers are famous for their flagrant defiance of traffic regulations, Mr. Romero. Perhaps it's because some pedicab operators are policemen? Anyway, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza can show he deserves his reelection by cracking down on errant pedicab drivers, among other things.

No road signs. Reader Sonny Ong is peeved by the absence of road signs: "Since I live in Makati, it's not often that I drive from Quezon City. So I always have difficulty in the Edsa-Ortigas area—there are no signs indicating the lanes thereat. Even in Fort Bonifacio there is still no sign which says where to turn left to reach C5."

In a previous column (Sept. 21, 2000), I already pointed out how inadequate or misleading road signs have made Edsa a dangerous puzzle for motorists, particularly those who don't use it daily or regularly. The same goes for C5 and Fort Bonifacio (with the exception of the commercial area called The Fort). But do Public Works and Highways Secretary S. Datumanong, Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Benjamin Abalos and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay care?

Bypassing the system. Jojo Vicencio, a retired US Navy man who was stationed in Japan for 20 years, chooses not to drive in Metro Manila because of the "rather dismal state of traffic." But he has an excellent idea: why not follow the procedure of settling traffic violation fines in Japan? Vicencio says motorists who receive a traffic violation ticket in Japan can pay the fine indicated at the closest 7-11 convenience store or at any bank. He suggests that this method be adopted here to bypass or minimize the "arreglo" system and the hassle of going all the way to the MMDA or City Hall and then lining up to pay and retrieve your driver's license. The penalized motorists "could be given a five-day window with which to pay their ticket. If they fail to pay and do not show up in court on the designated day, a search-and-destroy order for the individual could be issued," he concludes.

Issuing a search-and-destroy order for an unrepentant traffic violator sounds a bit drastic, Mr. Vicencio, although in some cases it may seem justified.

* * *

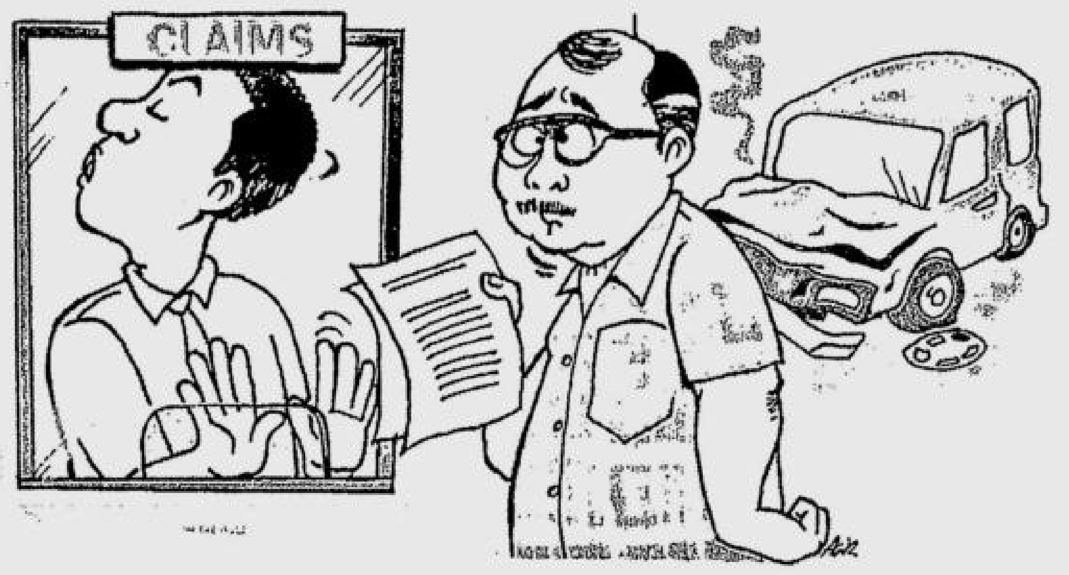
TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.

* * *

E-mail comments to aidasevilla @pacific.net.ph.

Car accident transformed into double nightmare

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR



RETIRED bank manager Hermenigildo Roxas used his retirement pay to buy an Isuzu Hilander SLX worth P560,000 in cash from Isuzu Manila on Dec. 1, 1998. An insurance premium of P19,500 was included in the payment covering third party liability, owner damage and theft issued by the Imperial Insurance Inc., a firm referred to him by Isuzu Manila. Roxas gladly obliged because it has the lowest premium.

At around 10:30 p.m. of June 4, 1999, Roxas' son Homer ran an errand to deliver a jacket to Roxas' nephew in Talisay, Batangas. Homer left for Talisay with a neighbor. After delivering the jacket, Homer passed by Barangay Turbina in Calamba, Laguna and decided to take eight passengers to Lucena City in Quezon province. Upon reaching Barangay Luacan in Tiaong, Quezon, a speeding Isuzu Elf truck loaded with coco lumber overtook a parked 10-wheeler dump truck on the opposite lane. The Elf hit the Hi-lander on the left side, seriously injuring all the occupants. The Hi-lander was declared a total wreck by a motor shop accredited by Roxas' motor insurance.

After attending to the hospitalization of the passengers, which cost about P45,000, Roxas filed his insurance claims, the nature of which was stated as "damage/loss on vehicular accident."

Refusal

Roxas said that the Trafalgar agency (Imperial Insurance's agency) refused the claim, saying that Roxas lacked the endorsement from the insurance company. Roxas countered he already had the endorsement from Imperial Insurance.

In July 2000, Roxas decided to bring his case to the Insurance Commission. In the presence of the Insurance Commissioner's public assistance chief, lawyer Teodoro Mendoza, Imperial Insurance's technical assistant to the executive vice president Enrique Torres promised that his firm would pay Roxas. (Roxas claimed Torres has resigned from Imperial Insurance recently.)

A year later, on July 7, 2001, Roxas was shocked to find out the Insurance Commission already had filed a cease and desist order (CDO) on Imperial Insurance.

Suspended

Insurance Commission Commissioner Eduardo Malinis told the INQUIRER that Imperial Insurance's license was already suspended. He added that Imperial Insurance still had some assets and the commission had appointed a receiver who would look into the assets and liquidate them to pay the claimants.

"Imperial has real estate properties that we will get hold of. Imperial still has a deposit of P2.5 million with the Insurance Commission," said Malinis.

Insurance Commission action officer Chris Borres, who handles the Imperial case, said that under the CDO status, Imperial assets should be liquidated. "Let's just hope an investor comes in and takes over Imperial for fresh capital so Imperial would be rehabilitated. If the conservator thinks it is possible, then Imperial would

A CAR/p.B10

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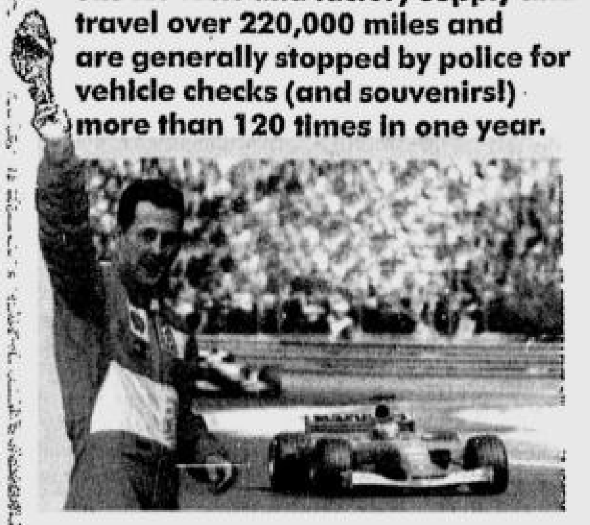
The Circuit

Shell Celebrates 19th and 20th World Championship Title Wins

Shell engineers celebrated last Sunday with their Ferrari teammates and congratulated Michael Schumacher after they successfully defended the Formula One World Constructors' Championship for Ferrari and for Shell, and the Drivers' World Championship as Michael retained his crown at the Hungarian Grand Prix.

The Shell team is an integral part of the success and its importance to the team cannot be underestimated. For example, Shell delivers Ferrari with a total of 220,000 litres of fuel and 40,000 kilograms of blended oil throughout a year for its Formula One and road car project. That is a staggering 150 deliveries to 20 different circuits in 15 different countries!

While Shell is developing premium product for Ferrari, it also has its fair share of challenges on the European roads. For example 6 support vehicles deliver fuel and oils for tests and factory supply and travel over 220,000 miles and are generally stopped by police for vehicle checks (and souvenirs!) more than 120 times in one year.



Around 40 people are directly involved with the blending and despatch of Ferrari's fuel and lubricants, plus a large team of technical engineers and experts who contribute to the Formula One research throughout the year, yet where Shell capitalises on the expertise in this area is the fact that this team also works on commercial Shell products too, bringing the expertise, professionalism and high standards of this winning Formula One team directly into forecourts all around the world.

"Naturally, we are delighted for Michael, the Shell engineers and the Ferrari team. 2001 has been a season of unrivalled success so far and to be able to confirm Michael as a Shell-fuelled World Champion so early in the season is a pleasure," commented Jackie Ireland, Shell Global Sponsorship Manager.

Michael's 2001 Championship victory also means he equals Alain Prost's record of four World Drivers Championship titles, an achievement exceeded only by Juan Manuel Fangio's five titles.

"Honestly, to win another title with Ferrari and Shell is amazing," commented the new Formula One World Champion, "I can't think of a better team to have had behind me for the past few years. I know that without the support of the Ferrari team and technical partners like Shell, this would have been impossible." The Shell team did an enormous job to support Ferrari and Michael on its way to success and naturally it is thrilled with the result. Using Shell products developed with the same technology used in Shell Helix Motor Oils and Shell performance fuels available to motorists across the world, a delighted team brings Shell its 19th World Constructors' Championship and 20th Drivers' title.

2001 FORMULA ONE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

(After 13 Grand Prix Races)

DRIVER STANDINGS	
M. SCHUMACHER	94
COULTHARD	51
BARRICHELLO	46
R. SCHUMACHER	44
HAKKINEN	21
MONTOYA	15

TEAM STANDINGS	
FERRARI	140
MCLAREN	72
WILLIAMS	59
SAUBER	20
BAR	16
JORDAN	15

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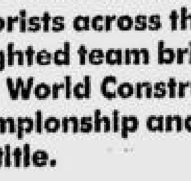

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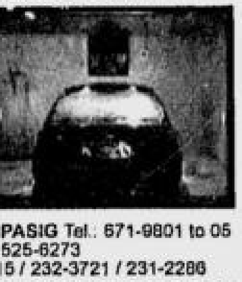

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How much does performance cost?

BY RAYMOND TRIBDINO

CONSIDER this. According to a commissioned marketing study for a known automotive parts maker, a significant 92 percent of Philippine car owners modify their cars. "Modify" is used in a very broad sense though. Any change that veers away from the car's showroom condition should be considered a modification, the document says.

Thus anything from a horn button swap to an alloy wheel change is considered a modification.

But that may be carrying it too far. By that definition, adding a "West McLaren" visor sticker to the windshield or slapping on a "turbo" badge on the right upper lip of the rear trunk is considered a modification. Not!

Ranking

For purposes of clarity, let us rank modifications into a scale of one to six. One being fast and clean revisions, like leather seat covers or bolting on a roof jack. On the other end of the scale will be painful and expensive alterations like an engine change. Turbochargers and intercoolers are a five. Converting the audio system to an eardrum-shattering boom box a four. Switching from steel rims to alloy wheels a three. And the carbon fiber gauge swap faces a two.

Given this ranking, we can say that all performance-related modifications, such as bolt-on headers and choosing the right low-profile rubbers fall between categories 4 and 6. And it is safe to say that modifications in this level will require your wallet to go on a major diet.

ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Performance mods are not always aimed at squeezing as much horsepower from the car. Some are content with getting as little as 5 horses more. While others are dissatisfied with a monstrous 600-hp engine on a Lancer. Then there are those happy with a stiffer ride and a lower body profile.

As a rule, the more horsepower added, the more modifications are needed. Overpowering a car is downright dangerous. Imagine stopping a modified Civic SiR that outputs over 480 hp with the standard 4-wheel disc brake setup. Or think about the immense amount of stress the same engine puts on the stock subframes and engine mounts.

Convention dictates that adding more horses require a suspension change. This is done mainly to address handling issues that arise out of additional stresses to the car's whole structure. It is also a must to keep the center of gravity where it should be, even in the most spirited take-off.

Quick guide

Here's a quick guide on how much added engine performance costs. We can look into suspension setups in future issues. Let us use the desired amount of horsepower added to see how fast the cash register rings.

Very basic exhaust system outfit. Not much horsepower increase—claims up to 15 hp. Only 1 to 5 hp when tested on the dyno. Rated free-flow headers straight pipe and mufflers. In most cases, a muffler swap only increases the "sound quality" of the car. It is a psychological thing. Apparently, the norm is "the louder it sounds, the faster it goes." Wrong. Really good exhaust systems produce a throaty exhaust note, but without the bassy aftershock. Make sure you get "rated" and "tested" systems. And being brand conscious won't help either. Nodalo's happens to produce an excellent exhaust system capable of a significant charge of power. Withdraw P5,000 to P10,000 from your ATM.

Shaved heads and a valve job. You won't go to a barber for this. And a valve job is not what you think. Opt to spend your hard-earned cash on this choice and get a real 5 to 10 hp increase. Entail removing bits and parts of your engine. Expect up to five car-less days. Consult a good shop to have this done. Cost: about P15,000 to P50,000.

Shot-in-the-valve train upgrade. Port & Polished. Light Deshrouding & Polishing of Combustion Chambers. Three-Angle Valve Job With Radius Valve Seat. The funny-sounding words simply mean the management of intake and spent gases. Guaranteed to deliver up to 15 horses more. Proper turbocharging will provide up to 50 horses more. But for real tire-shearing power, a complete full race setup will do wonders. Just be prepared for the check. Cost: about P50,000 up.

Sky's the limit. With all their dirty money, members of the Abu Sayyaf qualify for this category. All the engine tech jibberish including chip-up, cam gears and carbon fitter included. Cost: Sinful! Someone just spent P3 million on an Evo and he still isn't satisfied with about 600 horses pulling that cart.

A peso for each car sold

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza

EVEN as automotive sales fell to 42,604 units from January to July this year from 49,302 during the same period a year ago, the metropolis continues to reel under the weight of this social cancer that is the traffic jam. For, while we continue to lament the decrease in vehicle sales during the last seven months of 2001, seemingly drowned once more in the din of it is this almost daily battering inflicted upon us by monstrous jams. Have we become so callous that we now rarely raise even a whimper over this terrible state of affairs in our beloved city?

C'mon, get real, dolls and fellers. Let's unite and fight this plague that has been bedeviling us for so long a time now. Seemingly, "Letters to the Editor" efforts to awaken our officials aren't of any help. If we need to go to the streets to demand quick solutions, we might as well do it.

Paint your faces red, white and blue.

Carry those placards.

Raise your fists once more.

Long live people power.

Motorist and pedestrian

From up North in Valenzuela down South to Muntinlupa, from Monumento to Quiapo, from Pateros to Intramuros, from Diliman to Baclaran, from Novaliches to a village named Gaches, and from Marikina to Divisoria, there is not a day that passes without a traffic-induced curse uttered in exasperation by both motorist and pedestrian. Name it, almost every nook and cranny of the city is entangled in a traffic jam Monday to Friday. Sometimes, even on a Saturday. Sundays on roads situated near malls aren't exceptions, either.

This isn't funny, anymore.

Who was the guy who said any man who could solve the city's traffic mess might yet become the next president of the republic?

The country will continue to suffer a downswing in vehicle sales, possibly until December, due to a weak economy brought about by a political crisis that has already reached proportions of a social pus. The trend seems irreversible. Something must be done or bankruptcy could hit factories, resulting in massive unemployment that might exacerbate the already volatile situation.

While government functionaries continue to falter, if not fumble, in their duties at proper governance, we, the people, can pitch in some help in any way we can. It doesn't need to be in monetary form. And I must say we should leave that department to the business community. I refer specifically to the motoring community.

Work hand in hand

The government and the automotive industry should work hand-in-hand to put an end to this social malady. While I may consider them the 1-2 punch in the battle against traffic jams, we, the people, can do our share by reeducating ourselves with the ways of the world.

Let's obey road signs, follow traffic rules to the letter and drive with road courtesy as our main guiding light.

But they are easier said than done.

For, to really reap the fruits of our efforts as private citizens, there should be a concerted effort on the part of our traffic enforcers to strictly implement the law. Sadly, that's where the real bottleneck is. Our supposed guardians of the law, implementors of the rules, are the very first ones to break the law. Or abet with impunity the breaking of the law.

Yes, there are no corrupt officials where there are no corruptors. But then, many of us are tempted to bribe our way out of a fix because of our own undoing. There are times, however, when traffic enforcers accost us merely to fleece us on a fabricated traffic violation. Poor us, we easily succumb to police pressure. What is fifty bucks compared to a day spoiled by useless haggling over a petty traffic infraction?

The jeepney and bus drivers? Well, well, they are the most vulnerable to police brutalities. Why they are the city's No. 1 lawbreakers is not easy to answer: they bribe their way through the day because if they don't, they can't earn a living. Truth is, so business-like is the manner with which corruption is being undertaken that it has virtually become a way of life for drivers of our public utility vehicles.

Reinvent the government

But as always, there is a solution to a problem. If there's a disease, there's a cure (except cancer, or AIDS, of course). In the case at hand, the problem is solvable. We all know the solution, and it comes primarily from the government. To achieve it, political will is the key.

Reinvention is the operative word for the government to lick this disease. It should reinvent itself in a manner worthy of emulation by the governed. The government must return to the basics: people oriented, people friendly, people lover.

Nothing new there. It used to be known as the government for the people, by the people and of the people.

Car companies

And where will the car companies come in?

Simple. They should, for once, embrace the dictum, "Capitalism with a conscience." Simply put, they must contribute not only in terms of moral and social functions but also in monetary considerations.

In 1999 and 2000, the total number of cars sold for those years (ending October for each year) was 132,640. As mentioned at the start of this piece, there was a marked dip in sales this year from January to July for a crushing 13.6 percent decrease. This does not include sales in AUVs, SUVs buses, etc., which could have also suffered steep declines. Unless a miracle happens in the final half of the year, a reversal of trends is not foreseeable in the near future.

But then, we can make our own miracle.

This may be wishful thinking, out of sight if you wish, but I am toying with the idea of requesting our car companies to lay aside a peso for each car/vehicle sold. The money will be donated to road projects, flyovers and road tunnels which the government will undertake by way of helping lick the problem of traffic jams.

Great disparity

Look, the length of roads in Metro Manila is only 1,806.130 kilometers, with 110.193 km allotted to municipal roads and 259.066 km to barangay roads.

Compare that to the 1,271,227 motor vehicles registered in Metro Manila in 1999, 1,286,176 in 2000 and 740,476 in the first six months of 2001. The utter disparity of the length of city roads to the number of motor vehicles registered in the metropolis is such that if we don't act fast, Metro Manila would soon become a large parking lot. No machine moving, only man in motion.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has bared in her first State of the Nation Address last July that her government will embark on a 10-year program to build flyovers and other road-expansion activities in a bold promise to decongest the city of traffic snafus. Well and good. But then, it would be nice if our friends from the automotive industry would extend a helping hand in this noble, though ambitious, project of the President.

I guess, enforcing traffic laws would come easy afterward.

That is, if we, the people, will do our patriotic duty by also reinventing ourselves and become traffic-obeying citizens once more in this our one and only republic.

Motorshow all set for 12th season

BY JUN ALANO

MOTORSHOW International, one of the most enduring trade shows in the automotive industry, will again open its doors to motoring fans and car enthusiasts for its 12th season from Oct. 3 to 7, amid a lingering economic crisis that has been affecting car sales.

Still, organizers of Motorshow International (Philippines) say they are optimistic that car manufacturers and assemblers would find ways to beat the crisis, and one important step is to join trade shows like Motorshow and display their newest products.

"The assemblers and manufacturers are still coming up with new and exciting brands and models," said Marisa Nallana, Motorshow's dynamic director general. "For this reason alone, we feel we have to continue supporting the industry and vice versa."

This early, Nallana said, many old-time show participants have confirmed that they are again joining this year's Motorshow. Several new players are also joining to find out the reason so many exhibitors keep coming back year after year.

"We have new exhibitors, new sponsors," Nallana said. "Of course, our old friends are still very much around. For them, Motorshow remains to be the most important gathering of the most important players in the industry, and they can't afford to miss the fun."

The 12th season of Motorshow International will again be held at the trendy World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City, the event's home for the past four years.

Aside from car exhibits and sales of assorted parts and accessories, Motorshow features special events such as the Motorshow Best in Show Competitions and the Motor Model Concourse/Motorshow in Scale.

This year's Motorshow sponsors include Oriental and Motolite Corp.; Eva-Air Corp., the official airline of Motorshow; Bay Fresh Air Freshener, and Adobo Interactive, the show's official Web partner.

The early exhibitors are led by Isuzu Philippines Corp., assembler and distributor of Isuzu vehicles such as the Hi-lander, Fuego and Trooper; Armstrong Enterprises Co. Inc. (Toyo tires and imported alloy wheels); Artocad Creation Enterprises (car stickers); Bizcom Int'l Corp. (UNIQ engine metal treatment, Pennzoil and Per'tua oils and lubricants);

Clorox (Philippines) Inc. (Prestone brake fluid and coolant, STP brake fluid, Armor-All car wax); DAV Commercial (Dayco automotive belts and bulbs, engine support); Energy and Aviation Support Corp. (Eyquem F3+1 spark plugs, Ultima 600 engine analyzer); European Decals (stickers); Goodlink Corp. (76 Lubricants, motor oils for various vehicles);

Kart Plaza (Tom's racing products); Exclusively Kymco (Taiwan-made scooters); Liftruk International Trading (EGR auto and SUV accessories); M.D. Juan Enterprises Inc. (JR Hammer body/chassis assembly, JR Hammer complete running unit, jeep body, parts, accessories); MGME Marketing Corp. (Pioneer car audio, audio/video components, DVD, plasma TV);

Oriental and Motolite Corp. (Oriental and Motolite auto batteries); Robert Bosch Inc. (Bosch automotive products like horns, wiper blades, batteries, spark plugs, brake pads); Silverwind Alloy Castings (aluminum alloy wheels); Tire Importers and Traders Association of the Philippines (Titap) Tire Expo 2001 (various tire brands from association members);

Tyremart Inc. (Dunlop tires and imported mags); Tamson Enterprises (Ryobi door closer and hardware); US Chemical Products Marketing Inc. (Turtle Wax, WD-40 rust protectant, VHT automotive spray paint, Fruit Club car freshener; William Parts Corp. (Splitfire/Autolite spark plugs; Bendix disc pad, Wagner halogen lights, Herculiner bedliner);

Yokohama Tire Sales Philippines (Yokohama car radial tires and rims, A-539); Z-Speed Motorsports Products Inc. (Blue Thunder 9.8mm multi-core ignition cables); Nodalo's Clean Air Corp. (mufflers, headers, catalytic converters); and Miles and Levels Phils. Inc. (car care products and accessories).

Inquiries about the show can be made through the organizer, Philippine Exhibits and Themeparks Corp. (Petco) at 832-5422, 832-5401 or e-mail at citexmdn@philworld.net.ph.

Subaru Forester makes it to Guinness book

THE AWD Subaru Forester proved its "Best of Both" worlds car performance of reliability and safety when it set a new world record in the Guinness Book of World Records early this year.

Brazilian drivers Caca Clauset and Marcelo Spina took the Subaru Forester for a 24,000-kilometer (which translates to 24 nonstop roundtrip rides from Manila to Bicol) adventure ride starting from the snow-laden tip of Alaska to the hot and humid region of Ushuaia, Argentina, in record time. Clocking 18 days, 1 hour and 11 minutes, they easily broke the previous record of 23 days, 22 hours and 43 minutes, setting a new world record for the Guinness Book of World Records.

SUBARU Forester

The Subaru Forester's entry in the Guinness Book of World Records proved its superior SUV reliability in traversing rough and ever-changing terrains in different and adverse climates while providing its passengers high levels of comfort and safety.

The drivers crossed Canada, the United States, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile and Peru to reach the finish line safely in Patagonia, Argentina, on May 17.

MOTORSCOPE

Nissan Motor bares price adjustments

NISSAN Motor Philippines Inc., the assembler of Nissan's passenger car line in the Philippines, recently announced price increases effective Aug. 6. Arthur Wang, NMPI vice president for marketing and sales, attributes the inevitable increase in vehicle prices to the continuing currency fluctuation, which translates to higher production costs. The review was however made very thorough to ensure that the resulting price structure retains the vehicle lineup's value proposition for the customer. New price schedules are as follows: Nissan Cefiro Brougham VIP 2.0 A/T—P1,610,000; Nissan Cefiro Elite 2.0 A/T—P1,310,000; Nissan Cefiro Classic 2.0 A/T—P1,140,000; Nissan Sentra Exalta GS Grandeur 1.6 A/T—P890,000; Nissan Sentra Exalta GS 1.6 A/T P845,000; Nissan Sentra Exalta LS 1.6 M/T—P770,000; Nissan Sentra Exalta DS 1.5 A/T--P718,000; Nissan Sentra Exalta DS 1.5 M/T—P688,000; and Nissan Verita1.3 A/T—P698,000.

Tire traders group marks 6th year

THE TIRE Importers and Traders Association of the Philippines (Titap) is celebrating its 6th anniversary on Friday through a special gathering at the Celebrity Sports Plaza in Diliman, Quezon City. To be inducted into office for the year 2001-2002 are Leroy Tan, president; Nelson Kho, vice president; Raffy Victoria, secretary general; and Nanding Santiago, treasurer. Also to be sworn in are directors Nonoy Umbal, Mon de Vera, Alexander Kho, Ben Co, Ronnie Joyosa, ivy Tan, Cynthia Romana and Dodie Peano, past president. Bureau of Product Standards director Jesus L. Motoomull will lead the induction of Titap's new set of officers.

Honda Civic at stake in Nestlé promo

NESTLÉ Ice Cream is giving away a brand-new Honda Civic model 2001 to a lucky winner. Two ice cream lovers will also bring home a big-time cash prize of P1 million each. Other winners will have the chance to enjoy lavish vacations as Nestlé gives away trips for two to the United States, Bangkok, Hong Kong and Boracay. Other prizes at stake are Nokia cellular phones, Sony playstations and P100,000, P10,000 and P5,000 cash prizes, and thousands of free ice cream. Nestlé's "Dig That Chip" national promo will run until Aug. 31.

Bicolano wins motorcycle photo contest

GLENN Peralta Sr., a Legazpi City-based member of the Federation of Philippine Photographers' Foundations bested more than 200 contestants in the recently concluded First Asian Motorcycle Photo Contest.

The final judging of the 5-month long competition which carried the theme "Think Safety. Ride Safely" was held over the weekend at the Hotel Rembrandt in Quezon City.

Aimed at promoting motorcycle-riding safety in the region, the photo contest is a joint project of the Federation of Asian Motorcycle Industries (Fami), Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association and the Japan Automobile Manufacturing Association (Jama) with Shell and Motolite as local sponsors.

According to Joe Perez, the local project manager and chair of the MDPPA government and planning committee, Peralta will join the 7 country winners from India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand in an all-expense-paid, 7-day trip to Japan via Singapore. Peralta will also enjoy, apart from a $700-pocket money, a group visit to the famous Tokyo Motor Show during the trip in October, Perez added.

The entries of Antonio Rojas Jr. of Iloilo City and Joel Desuyo placed second and third, respectively.

The contest judges were Col. Erwin Villacorte, chief of the Motor Vehicles Certification Office (MVCO); Merceditas Gutierrez, LTO registration chief; Richard Santiago of Freedom Riders Association; Jake Swann of Motorcycle Safety Federation of the Phils. (MSFP); and Mat Ocenar, MDPPA president.

Ocenar said he is glad photographers from all over the country helped in spreading the message that the motorcycle is safe and can be a very affordable alternative means of transportation.

The prizes will be awarded to the winners at the awarding ceremonies and exhibit to be hosted by MDPPA members Honda, Kawasaki, Kymco, Suzuki and Yamaha at the Camia Room of Edsa Shangri-La on Aug. 29.

Car accident transformed into double nightmare

(From page B9)

be rehabilitated. But now, nothing is clear yet." Borres added that aside from its real estate properties, Imperial still owns transportation equipment and other investments.

Claims

Roxas said that he heard "from the grapevine" that Imperial's claimants are demanding up to P100 million in claims and debts, including those from the motor and repair shops.

The repair shops made Imperial's liabilities bigger, noted Malinis.

"Imperial Insurance had an arrangement with the repair shops (on a) pay-later (basis). The repair shops agreed because…business was flourishing. But we will see to it that all claims relating to injuries be given priority, particularly those who were run over and those who lost their vehicles.

"Every day claimants come here and we try our best to entertain them so they will not say they are abandoned. We are doing our best to see to it that all the claims are paid for by the insurance firms."

Asked what advice he would give to potential vehicle buyers, Malinis said that it wouldn't hurt to ask the commission the financial standing of insurance companies before one transacts business with them. The commission, he said, is open to the public until 6 p.m. every day.

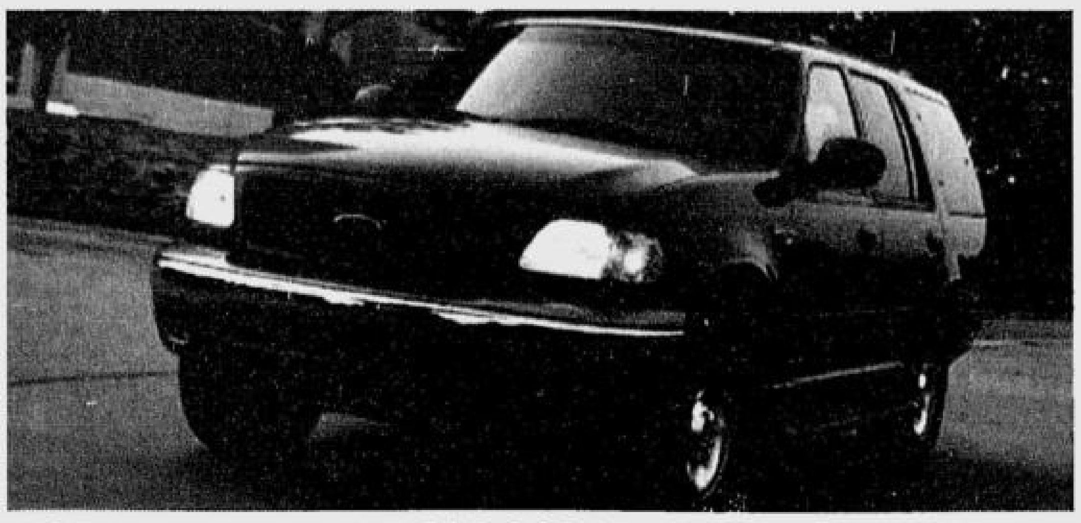
Reminders

Automobile Association of the Philippines (formerly Philippine Motoring Association) executive director Johnny Angeles, meanwhile, offered the following reminders:

- Don't just insure your vehicle—whether it's compulsory or comprehensive—to somebody that you do not know. Know your insurance company and verify its credibility and stability with the Insurance Commission. If you want to go further, try looking at the DTI (Department of Trade and Industry) records.
- Vehicle insurance is good only for one year, so always check the status of your insurance company yearly.
- Be sure you read the terms and conditions of your policy to know your protection coverage.

The INQUIRER tried to contact Imperial Insurance at several numbers, to no avail. Isuzu Manila's administration and operations head Cecille Peñaflor, meanwhile, said that she couldn't release a detailed statement on the case as she hadn't assumed her position in Isuzu during that time.

"During that time that Roxas procured Imperial Insurance from us, Imperial was still accredited (by the Insurance Commission) and was still in good financial standing," said Peñalfor.



FORD EXPEDITION 2001

Practical luxury?

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR
AND RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO

BIG. Tough. Brawny. Those are adjectives usually attached to Ford's enormous Expedition. It may not be the biggest or the sleekest of the SUVs, but it is definitely the most prominent full-size monster Edsa and parts between can ever stuff in. The mightiest of the SUVs has never been thought of as practical. But it is.

Practical? With that titanic, thirsty V8 breathing fire under the hood, a drivetrain similar to that of an earth mover, dimensions like that of a small house and a price tag that matches its size, how can the Expedition be practical?

Practical it is

Tessa: Yes, Raymond, how can this Expedition be practical, we can't even fit it in the INQUIRER parking lot, let alone my middle-class garage.

Raymond: The SUV market has for the greater part of its young history, been exploding in all directions. On one hand, cars are evolving into SUVs while SUVs are evolving back to cars. AUVs on the other hand are pretending more and more to be SUVs. In the thick of all these changes, the two original ideas that make the SUV—practicality and fun—have taken a backseat to technology, road ability and looks. Not that these are bad. They're just too tedious for the observer.

Tessa: Therefore…

Raymond: Therefore, the Expedition succeeds in keeping the practicality and fun part into the equation, without forgetting high-tech and things like that.

Tessa: But how can it be practical at over P1.6 million?

Raymond: It won't be practical, to us who don't have the cash. But to those with deep pockets, the benefits of this wagon are immense. And they will surely part with their money, not because of status but rather because it is a practical transporter. Right, Mr. Expedition Owner No. 1?

Expedition Owner No. 1: It is practical because it is better than a Mercedes-Benz when you want to transport many people or haul big loads. It is better suited to travel the bad roads, especially in provincial trips. And I never have problems crossing the frequent floods near my San Lorenzo home.

Thrifty it is not

Raymond: *Sabi sa 'yo eh* (I told you so).

Tessa: *Nakatira siya sa* San Lorenzo, *kasi* (He lives in San Lorenzo, that's why). And I don't agree. It is a gas-guzzler. Look at your notes. About 4 kilometers per liter on city driving and nearly 6 when you drive it up to Quezon. (I had previously thought the Expedition was economical, as I once spent about P5,000 on gas for it to run 1,500 km.)

Raymond: That's not bad for a V8. And it could go up to 180 kph if you want it to.

Tessa: But the fact remains that fuel consumption is something you and I have to consider.

Raymond: You got me there. I am sure even the well-heeled will agree that a diesel-propelled Trooper, Patrol or Pajero Fieldmaster is not a bad proposition.

Tessa: And the insurance premiums…

Raymond: Okay. Thrifty it is not. A full tank will cost nearly P2,000 and maintenance costs are steep. Remember, most people who buy the Expedition consider it an investment. And the best part is Ford never deals with fly-by-night insurance companies that leave you hanging. Like that article of yours somewhere in this section. What can you say Mrs. Expedition Owner No. 2?

Mrs. Expedition Owner No. 2: My family loves it. For the first time in my domestic life, my kids do not jump around in the back as most 5 to 7-year-olds do. They're glued to the screen watching their favorite Disney movie. You know how kids are with TV…

Tessa: That's the Audiovox headrest-mounted LCD screens she is talking about. It has a screen on each side, and an excellent audio system, too.

Raymond: But it's so hard to load the CDs.

Tessa: That's why there's the manual. Read it *naman* once in a while. But I think it's quite easy. One of the back passengers—the kids can do it—can do the chore.

Raymond: *Teka, akala ko ba ikaw ang kontrabida* (Wait, I thought you're the antihero)?

Tessa: *Aba, basta* show-biz matters, *bida ako diyan* (When it comes to show-biz matters, I am the heroine there).

Road cruiser

Tessa: The drive I had was so "floatingly" smooth—my female passengers were either dozing off or watching a movie. Considering the snail-paced traffic and the bad roads we had gone through in the North Expressway and beyond during the Lenten break, the drive and ride was not bad. Imagine, a 16-hour trip to Pagudpud and almost half of that pumping the gas and brake pedals.

Raymond: The cabin is extraordinarily pleasant, more pleasant if you are the passenger. The driver gets power seats (can we get a memory button installed here?) and a really cool pedal adjuster.

The ride is soft and wallowy but that makes for comfort in the pothole-riddled streets. Actually, it handles like a boat. The steering is vague because it is rather difficult to push two-and-a-half tons around a bend. But that is expected.

Expedition Owner No. 3: I feel the suspension is sophisticated for its size. It is as pleasant as it gets. Unlike my Audi that is solid and a bit harsh on the bumps, the Expedition provides a very comfortable ride. It's like our streets have no potholes.

Expedition Owner No. 4: The view from the Expedition is commanding. You ride above everyone else. But that is also disadvantageous sometimes. It is so hard to park. You should see the nicks and scratches on our Expedition.

Raymond: You tell me, I didn't see that pedicab crossing my path that morning I returned the Expedition to Ford Alabang. Nasty scratches and all.

Tessa: You really have to be careful with the blind spots. Anyone below 5 feet in height can easily be run over. Did you hear about the accident involving Kris' driver with her son Josh? The driver didn't see the poor child. Thank God Josh is okay.

We rate the Expedition **8 out of 10 total points.** Top scores for beauty, finish, build quality, power and overall performance. Low scores go to the rear benches, which are not really passenger friendly and visibility on all corners. You can't consider price a disadvantage here. It is actually very competitive, considering everything that is stuffed into the vehicle.

'Mercedes-Benz is a trademark of DaimlerChrysler'

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The Mercedes-Benz E220 CDI

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Zuellig Pharma inks CBA

THE COLLECTIVE Bargaining Agreement between the management of Zuellig Pharma Corp. (ZPC) and the F.E. Zuellig Laborers and Employees Association (Fezlea) was signed last Aug. 8 at simple signing ceremonies held at the Tiara Hotel in Makati City.

The highlight of the new CBA economic package is the productivity-based salary increases and other related economic benefits. The CBA is valid for a period of three years ending April 30, 2004.

ZPC president and CEO Reiner W. Gloor commended both the management and union panels for concluding the agreement in a record time of less than three months. He also praised them for keeping negotiations peaceful and maintaining open communication. The openness and support between the two parties have resulted in an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding. The latest CBA indicates the high level of maturity that both management and employees have achieved.

With the new CBA in place, management is confident that the entire organization will continue working together to improve productivity and ensure the company's leadership in the market.

PANA INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS

The Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) inducted new regular members of the association during its general membership meeting held recently. Shown during the induction were (from left) Pana president Angelica P. Suiza of Golden ABC Inc.,Yvette Policarpio of GTVL Manufacturing (Jockey), Tom Jefferson Sing of J-Sing Brothers (Carter) and Renato Aquino of Edsamail.

New GM for BGC

GRIFAL

BONIFACIO Gas Corp. (BGC), a joint venture company between Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC) and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (PSPC), announces the appointment of Alexius Cesar B. Grifal as its new general manager. Grifal replaces Frederick N. Piedad, who has taken a new assignment at PSPC's LPG group.

Grifal has a B.S. Architecture degree from the University of Sto. Tomas and is an active member of the Untied Architects of the Philippines. He has over 12 years of marketing and selling experience in retail, wholesale, dealers and distributors network and industrial markets for LPG and composite products of PSPC.

As former head of PSPC's LPG market development, Grifal was involved in special projects concerning portfolio, branding, as well as business and market development.

PAG-IBIG FINANCIAL HOUSING PROJECT IN BATAAN

Presidential Adviser for Housing and HUDCC chair Michael T. Defensor, Pag-Ibig president and CEO Manuel C. Crisostomo and Bataan Governor Leonardo B. Roman lead the groundbreaking and launching ceremonies of Bataan Peninsula Heights. The construction of 1,134 housing units in a 54-hectare lot situated at Barangay Gugo and Sapa, Samal, Bataan is a joint project of the provincial government of Bataan and Pag-Ibig Fund in line with the government's shelter program. Witnessing the ceremony are Vice Governor Rogelio G. Roque, Samal Mayor Roman Lazarte, Samal parish priest Fr. Joel Jimenez and other Pag-Ibig officers.

Business opportunities at fund-raising bazaars

IT is that time of the year once again. As the most anticipated and celebrated season of the year draws near, businessmen and entrepreneurs are given the chance to get into the spirit of giving by taking part in sought-after holiday shopping affairs. Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation, a non-stock, non-profit organization dedicated to honoring martyrs who offered their lives for freedom, truth and justice during the dark night of martial law, in partnership with CUT Unlimited Inc., events managers, will be staging three holiday shopping fairs.

Early during the year the foundation, through the leadership of its chair former senator Jovito R. Salonga, its executive director Dr. Quintin S. Doromal and corporate treasurer Lawyer Felipe L. Gozon, teamed up with CUT Unlimited Inc. through its president, Mayose G. Bautista for the said purpose.

As a result, the foundation is inviting small to medium-scale entrepreneurs and business people to join the two-part Noel Christmas Bazaars at the Manila Polo Club on Oct. 13 to 14 (part 1) and Dec. 15 to 16 (part 2) and Christmas@2001, a holiday shopping exposition at the World Trade Center on Dec. 1 to 2. All these events are assured of a huge visitor turnout through a long standing expertise and a variation of strategies. As proven by bazaars handled by CUT during previous years, top-grossing vendors could reach sales of up to P250,000 to P350,000 in two days and potential total fair sales over a given weekend stretches up to P7 to 8 million.

Proceeds of these events will support the projects of the foundation, which includes the building of a library and museum on the corner of Edsa and Quezon Avenue as well as supporting a scholarship fund for the children left behind by the martyrs. For donations, inquiries and reservations, call 371-7398 371-7405 and 373-3601 local 216 or e-mail eventsonly@edsamail.com.ph.

LETRAN CITES YULO

The Colegio de San Juan de Letran, represented by its rector and president Fr. Edwin Lao (left), awarded former PSE chair and alumnus of the college Jose Ma. Luis Yulo (right) a plaque of recognition for his participation in the restoration of good governance culminating in People Power II at Edsa. Yulo was honorary guest speaker during Letran's Elementary commencement rites held at the Philamlife Auditorium in Manila.

ORIGINAL ACCESSORIES AT THE HUB

Cellphone users can jazz up and accessorize their phones with all-original accessories at the Hub. The state-of-the-art telecommunications shop offers a wide range of colorful casings, batteries, chargers, hands-free kits for cellphones of all shapes and sizes. Operated by Globe Telecom, Hub is the new high-tech telecoms store located at the Level 2 of Glorietta 4 at the Ayala Center in Makati. Hub, with its space-age design and architecture, is an innovative concept in telecom stores where customers can go in to browse, buy cellphones and communication gadgets, as well as open line subscription and purchase prepaid products in a highly interactive environment. Customers (shown above) compare the best features of a wide array of products.

Shell provincial deadline

THE DEADLINE for provincial entries to the 34th Shell National Students Art Competition is from Aug. 22 to 24. Participants are advised to bring their entries to any Shell office, depot, or installation outside Metro Manila. Provincial entries may also be submitted at the CAP Art Gallery in Cebu City, Museo Iloilo in Iloilo City and Genluna Gallery in Davao City. Students may also get their entry forms from the above institutions or offices. Forms may also be downloaded from www.StudentArtContest.com.

New JVC products

JVC (Phils.) Inc. will unveil its latest line of audio and video products with the celebration of JVC Week from Aug. 24 to 31 at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati. To be launched are JVC's newest home video and audio appliances, the company's latest innovation in digital technology which were recently awarded by the European press as the 2001-2002 outstanding home and video products. The week-long event will feature concerts, video presentations, workshops in video production for students of communication arts from different universities in Metro Manila, exhibits and product demonstrations, badminton youth tournament and clinics featuring participants in the ongoing Asian badminton championships.

BITS & Clips

HRD confab

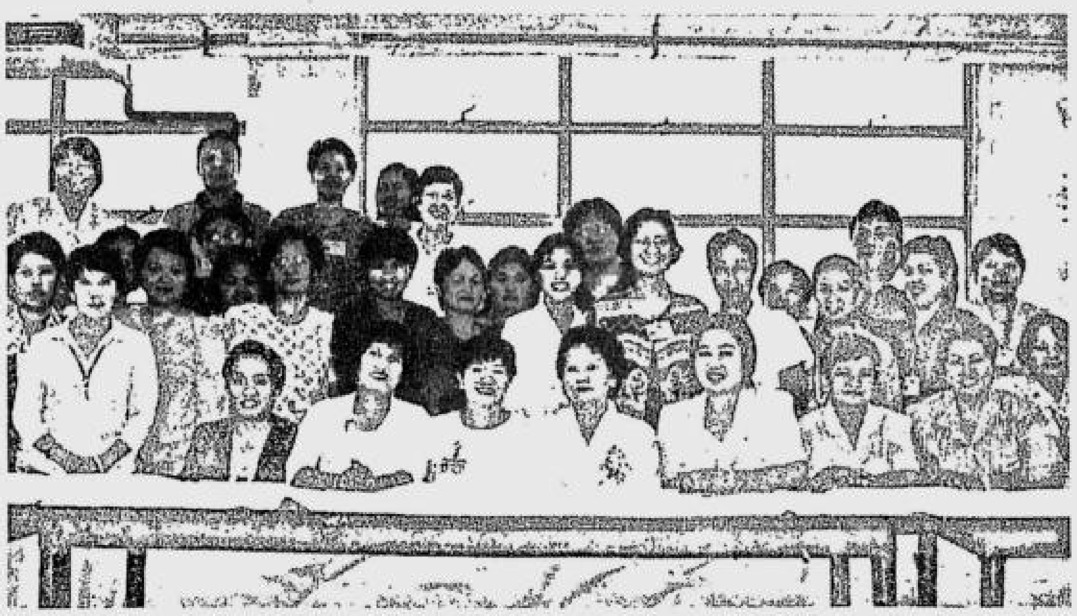
A TWO-DAY convention for human resource management and development practitioners on the theme "Institutional and Human Resources Productivity and Effectiveness" will be held on Aug. 23 and 24 at Hyatt Regency Hotel in Pasay City. The convention, which will feature some of the country's human resources experts as speakers, will be held in response to the need to address regularly pressing concerns of most private schools regarding human resources. The two-day confab will be conducted under the auspices of the Asian Association of School Human Resource Management and Development Practitioners Inc. For details, call Jocelyn, Joyce or Jeseil of Southville International School at (632) 820-8709, 820-9181 or 820-8714, respectively. Fax (632) 820-8715, 809-1023, e-mail gene@sville.edu.ph

'Fashion Revolution'

LINEA Italia Group (LIG) and the Marconi Fashion Group (MFG) will stage "Fashion Revolution," a fashion campaign to generate a positive outcome for the country and the consumers. To kick off "Fashion Revolution," LIG is offering as much as 70-percent discount on over 100 Italian brands in all its regular stores and in all Corso Marconi stock houses in Metro Manila and Cebu. The new batch of quality Italian fashion items at prices that are the best in Asia will be showcased to the public through Fashion Revolution, a visual feast of colors, fabrics and designs in a unique fashion show and party on Aug. 23 at the RCBC Plaza in Makati City. Everyone is encouraged to be in his best military spunk or red hot punk attire.

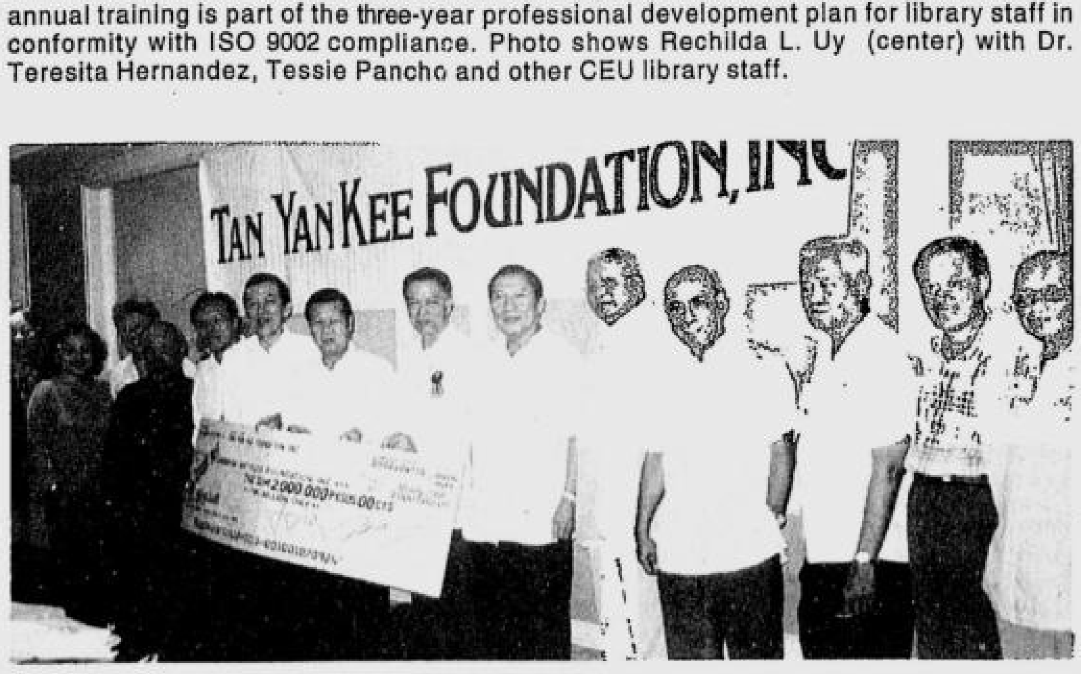
CDAP, CDG seminar

CARL Duisberg Association of the Philippines, alumni association of former CDG scholars to Germany, in cooperation with the Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft Asean regional office (CDGRKO) and the Operations Research Society of the Philippines (ORSP), jointly sponsor a seminar on "Enhancing Profitability through Operations Research" on Aug. 25 at the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center on Benavidez corner Trasierra Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Respected OR practitioners shall orient participants on the application of scientific methods to help management analyze tough decisions, interpret complex data, simplify critical operating problems and shape important policies. For more information, call Ramon Yap at 840-1139 or e-mail ryap@edsamail.com.ph or Josie Cacdac at 727-0401 or e-mail josiecacdac@hotmail.com



CEU IN SERVICE TRAINING

The Centro Escolar University main library staff held it's eighth In Service Training with the theme 'Towards a World Class Library Service: a 21st Century Employee' at the CDL building. The guest lecturer was professor Rechilda L. Uy, a faculty memberof CEU College of Science, Social Arts and Humanities Department. The training was successfully carried out under the chairmanship of Teresita Pancho with Victoria P. Baleva as co-chair. Dr. Teresita G. Hernandez, head of the CEU library department, was the consultant. The annual training is part of the three-year professional development plan for library staff in conformity with ISO 9002 compliance. Photo shows Rechilda L. Uy (center) with Dr. Teresita Hernandez, Tessie Pancho and other CEU library staff.

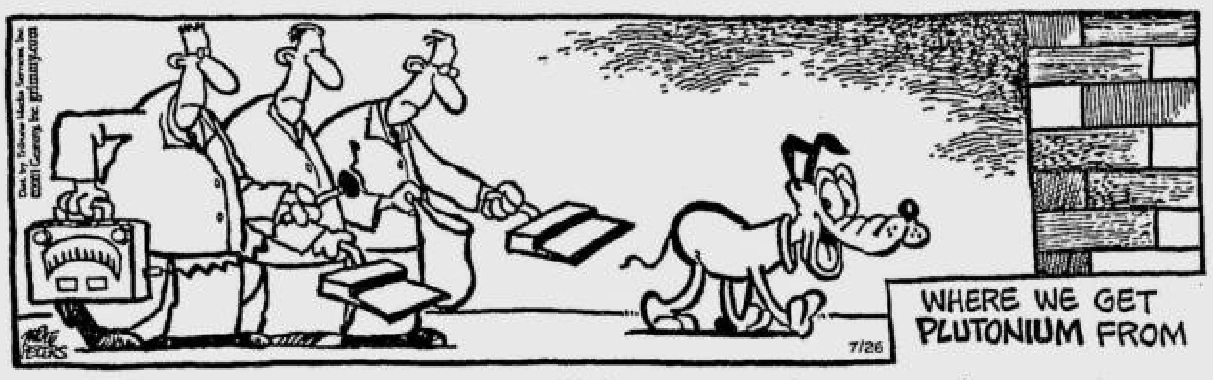


TAN YAN KEE FOUNDATION, INC

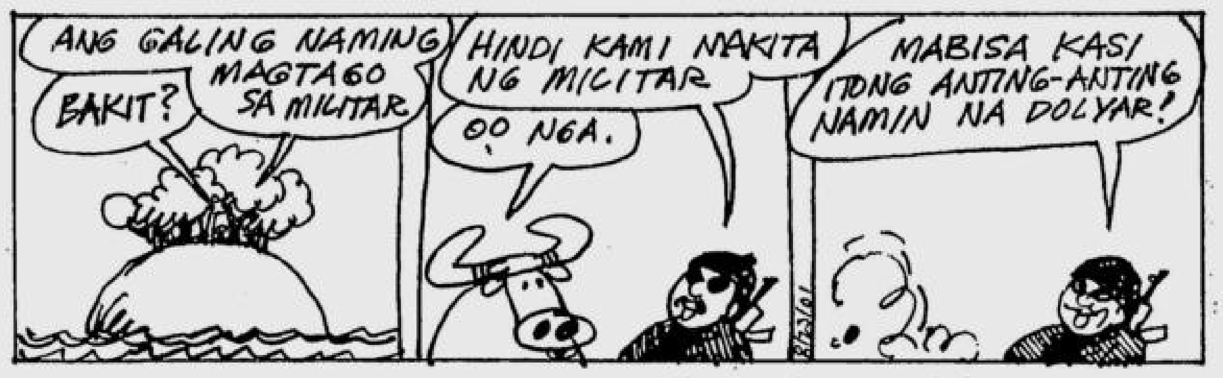
P2-M DONATION FOR TARLAC SCHOOL

Pursuing its mission to help the education sector, the Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc. donated P2 million to the Bayanihan Institute Foundation of Tarlac to help in the relocation and construction of its 23-classroom school building. Tan Yan Kee chair and president Dr. Lucio C. Tan (center) leads the check turnover to officials of the Bayanihan Institute Foundation. He is joined by Tan Yan Kee trustees (first to fourth from left) Tan Hui Bin, Shirley Chua, Mariano Tanenglian, former BSP governor Gabriel Singson; and (10th to 14th from left) Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, Ateneo Law School Dean Fr. Joaquin Bernas, former Prime Minister Cesar Virata, Harry Tan and P.O. Domingo, Tan Yan Kee executive director.

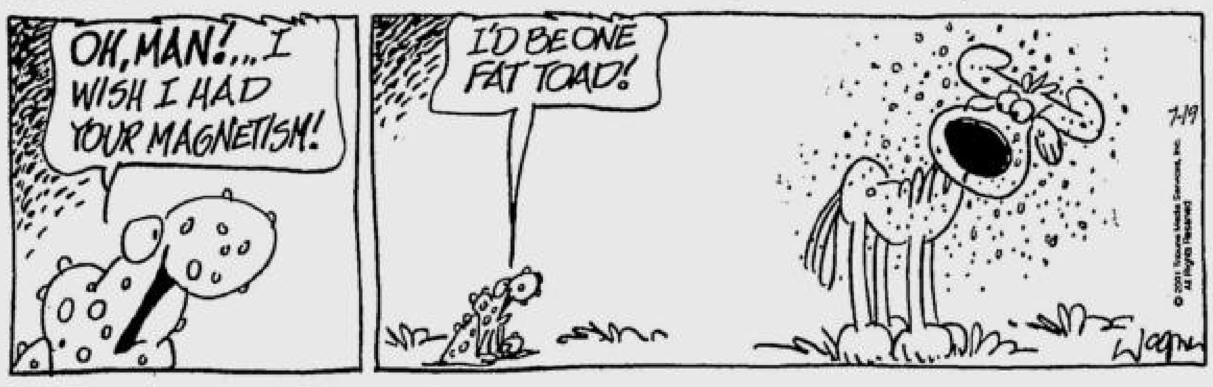
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


WHERE WE GET PLUTONIUM FROM
7/26

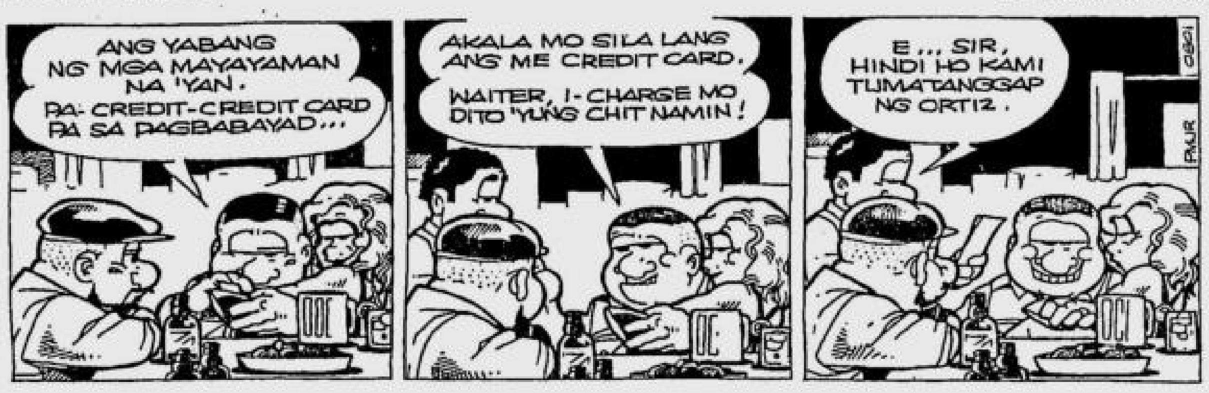
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


ANG GALING NAMING MAGTAGO SA MILITAR
BAKIT?
HINDI KAMI NAKITA NG MILITAR
OO NGA.
MABISA KASI ITONG ANTING-ANTING NAMIN NA DOLYAR!
8/23/01

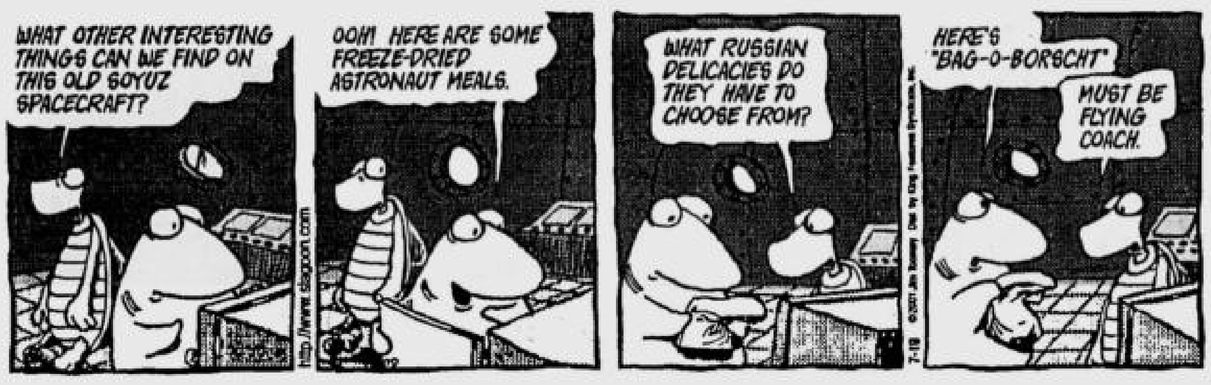
ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


OH, MAN!... I WISH I HAD YOUR MAGNETISM!
I'D BE ONE FAT TOAD!
7-19

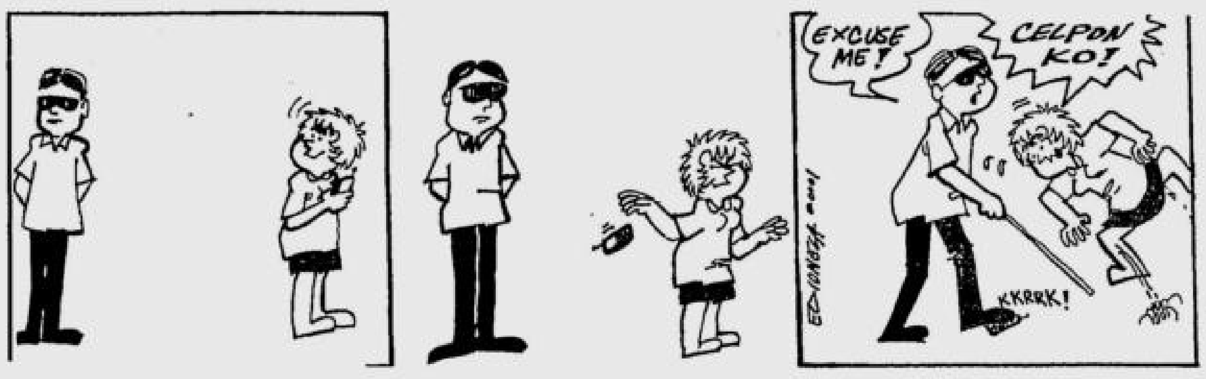
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG YABANG NG MGA MAYAYAMAN NA 'YAN. PA-CREDIT-CREDIT CARD PA SA PAGBABAYAD...
AKALA MO SILA LANG ANG ME CREDIT CARD. WAITER, I-CHARGE MO DITO 'YUNG CHIT NAMIN!
E... SIR, HINDI HO KAMI TUMATANGGAP NG ORTIZ.

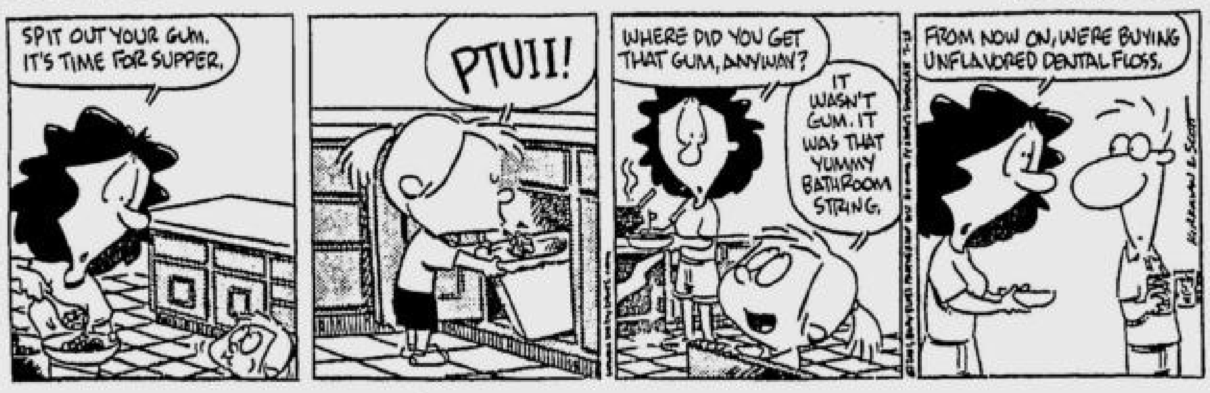
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


WHAT OTHER INTERESTING THINGS CAN WE FIND ON THIS OLD SOYUZ SPACECRAFT?
OOH! HERE ARE SOME FREEZE-DRIED ASTRONAUT MEALS.
WHAT RUSSIAN DELICACIES DO THEY HAVE TO CHOOSE FROM?
HERE'S "BAG-O-BORSCHT"
MUST BE FLYING COACH.
http://www.slagoon.com

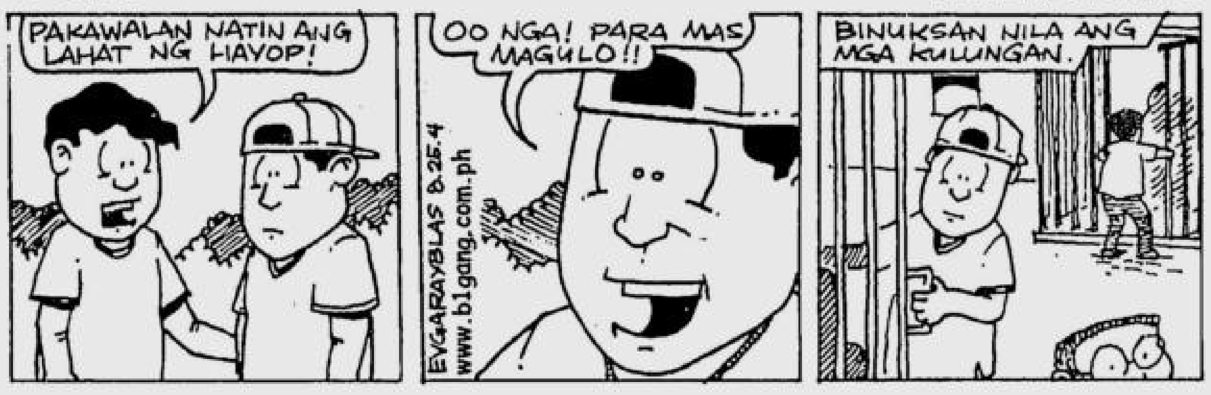
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


EXCUSE ME!
CELPON KO!
KKRRK!

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


SPIT OUT YOUR GUM. IT'S TIME FOR SUPPER.
PTUII!
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT GUM, ANYWAY?
IT WASN'T GUM. IT WAS THAT YUMMY BATHROOM STRING.
FROM NOW ON, WE'RE BUYING UNFLAVORED DENTAL FLOSS.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

B1 GANG BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


PAKAWALAN NATIN ANG LAHAT NG HAYOP!
OO NGA! PARA MAS MAGULO!!
EVGARAYBLAS 8.25.4
www.b1gang.com.ph
BINUKSAN NILA ANG MGA KULUNGAN.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rick Springfield, Jay Mohr, River Phoenix, Shelley Long, Barbara Eden

Happy Birthday: Back up and double-check that you have covered all the bases. You are so close, but for some reason just can't finish what you started. It's time for the final push. Commitment to yourself and dedication to your goals are the keys. Your numbers: 5, 12, 19, 23, 29, 33

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't push your luck with a loved one. If you've been hard to get along with, rectify the problem before it gets out-of-hand. Your partner's emotions run deep, so choose words wisely.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put time and effort into making money. You won't be sorry when the cash starts coming in. Being involved in your own business would mean controlling how much you can make.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You've got the competitive edge as long as trivial matters aren't allowed to hold you back. You can make a difference by presenting your ideas and implementing them.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let someone you live with dampen your enthusiasm. Gain respect by proceeding with your plans even if your partner doesn't want to take part.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Interact with friends. Conversations will provide insight and solutions to some of the recent personal problems. Don't be bullied into believing everything is your fault.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Express your intentions regarding money matters to older, established individuals. Take heed of their advice and make any necessary changes to personal papers and financial documents.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be quick to overreact. Your overly sensitive nature will lead to problems that you'll wish you never initiated. Beware of misconceptions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone you deal with doesn't have your best interests at heart. Keep a close eye on those too eager to assist. Deception is likely.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do something that will benefit others. Look into ways to help an organization you truly believe in. Your concern will be admired and respected.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may not want to go home if your partner has been giving you a hard time. Try to be patient and don't let his or her insecurities lead to evading issues that must be discussed.

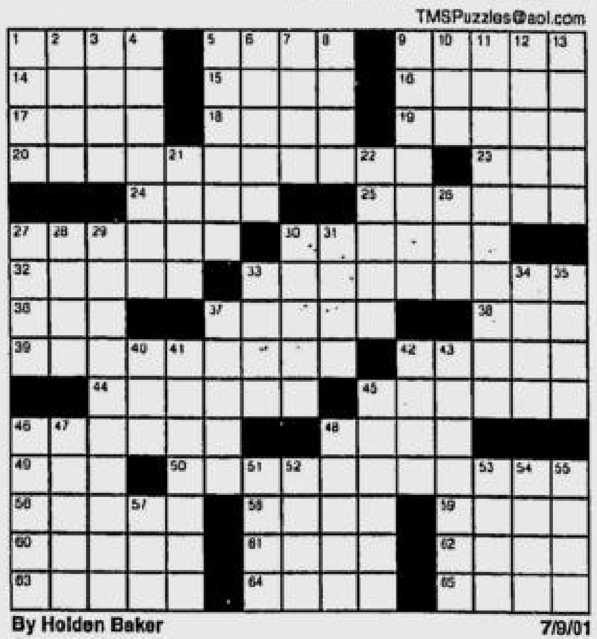
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You need to look at the bigger picture. Your options are expanding, but if you decide to go after professional dreams, it may upset loved ones. Weigh the pros and cons.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Make changes to your living arrangements. Get the family to pitch in and help. The effort will be beneficial for everyone, even if it does require some hard work and planning.

Birthday Baby: You're rough, tough and ready to conquer your world. You have courage, discipline and the imagination to do something great. Be relentless in your pursuits and in following your dreams and you will succeed.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

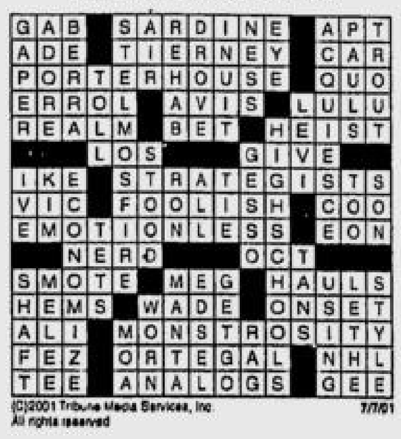


By Holden Baker
Greenfield, MA
7/9/01

ACROSS
1 List-shortening abbr.
5 Ticket end
9 First appearance
14 Amazon estuary
15 Hoopster Archibald
16 Actress Verdugo
17 Persia, now
18 By mouth
19 Strongholds
20 Philharmonic milieu
23 Ignited
24 CPR specialists
25 With no sweat
27 Kind of fruit
30 New York island
32 Loamy deposit
33 Black widow's snare
36 Sothern or Sheridan
37 Farm buildings
38 Chopping tool
39 Jipijapa product
42 Banana __
44 Don't I wish?
45 Riches
46 Army's mule or Navy's goat
48 Small bird
49 Liturgical vestment
50 Reappearance on stage
56 Insect pest, casually
58 Garden dandy
59 Shaving-cream additive
60 Lover of Daphnis
61 Wind blast
62 Superman's alias
63 Saintly circles
64 Groupings
65 Former mates

DOWN
1 Larger-than-life
2 Poi source
3 Island group off Galway
4 Cavalrymen
5 Quick drinks
6 Little pies
7 Bryce Canyon's state
8 Composer Bartok
9 Let the air out of
10 "Telephone Line" grp.
11 Cold war boundary
12 Up to
13 Delectable
21 Cassowary kin
22 Takes charge
26 Sun. oration
27 Applaud
28 College in New Rochelle
29 Sphere for Serena
30 Atomizer mist
31 Color shade
33 Humorist Mort
34 Stage departure
35 Daniel of the LPGA
37 African language group
40 NFL part
41 Sponges
42 Witnessed
43 IHOP item
45 Where watches are worn
46 Sousa piece
47 Hilo hello
48 Middle measurement
51 Sets up
52 Loyal
53 Writer Haley
54 Solitary
55 Allows to
57 Act dovish

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



G	A	B	■	S	A	R	D	I	N	E	■	A	P	T
A	D	E	■	T	I	E	R	N	E	Y	■	C	A	R
P	O	R	T	E	R	H	O	U	S	E	■	Q	U	O
E	R	R	O	L	■	A	V	I	S	■	L	U	L	U
R	E	A	L	M	■	B	E	T	■	H	E	I	S	T
■	■	■	L	O	S	■	■	■	G	I	V	E	■	■
I	K	E	■	S	T	R	A	T	E	G	I	S	T	S
V	I	C	■	F	O	O	L	I	S	H	■	C	O	O
E	M	O	T	I	O	N	L	E	S	S	■	E	O	N
■	■	N	E	R	D	■	■	■	O	C	T	■	■	■
S	M	O	T	E	■	M	E	G	■	H	A	U	L	S
H	E	M	S	■	W	A	D	E	■	O	N	S	E	T
A	L	I	■	M	O	N	S	T	R	O	S	I	T	Y
F	E	Z	■	O	R	T	E	G	A	L	■	N	H	L
T	E	E	■	A	N	A	L	O	G	S	■	G	E	E

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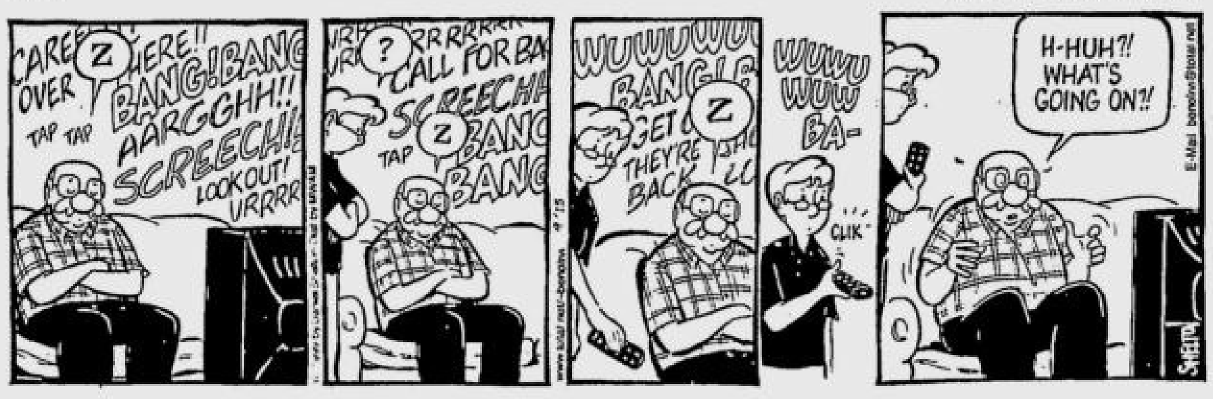
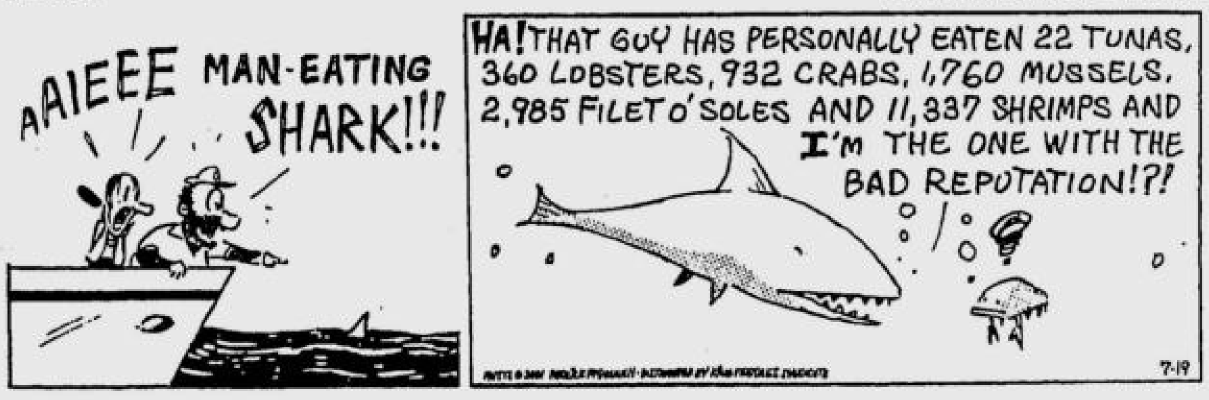
7/7/01

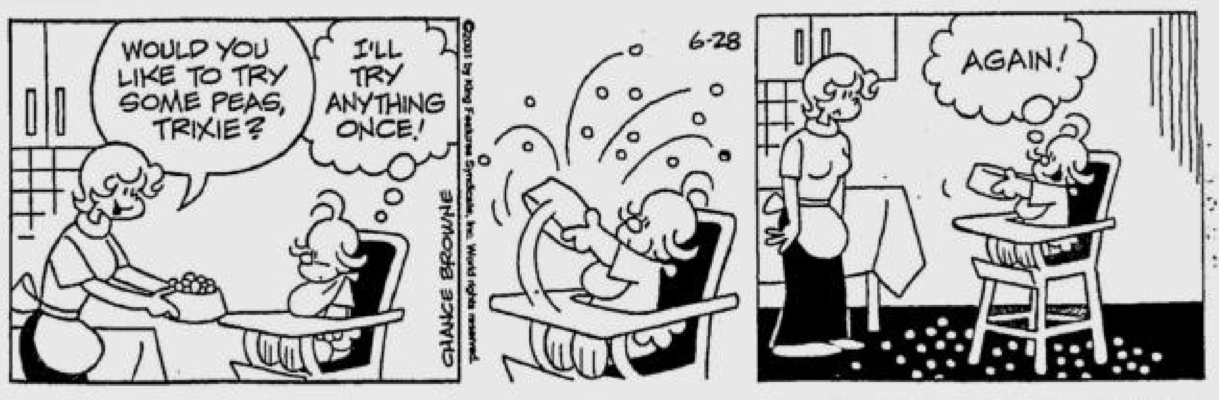
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


CAREER OVER HERE!! BANG! BANG AARGGHH!! SCREECH! LOOKOUT! URRRR
TAP TAP
Z
?
RRRRR CALL FOR BA SCREECH BANG BANG
WUWUWU BANG GET THEY'RE BACK
WUWU WUW BA-
CLIK
H-HUH?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

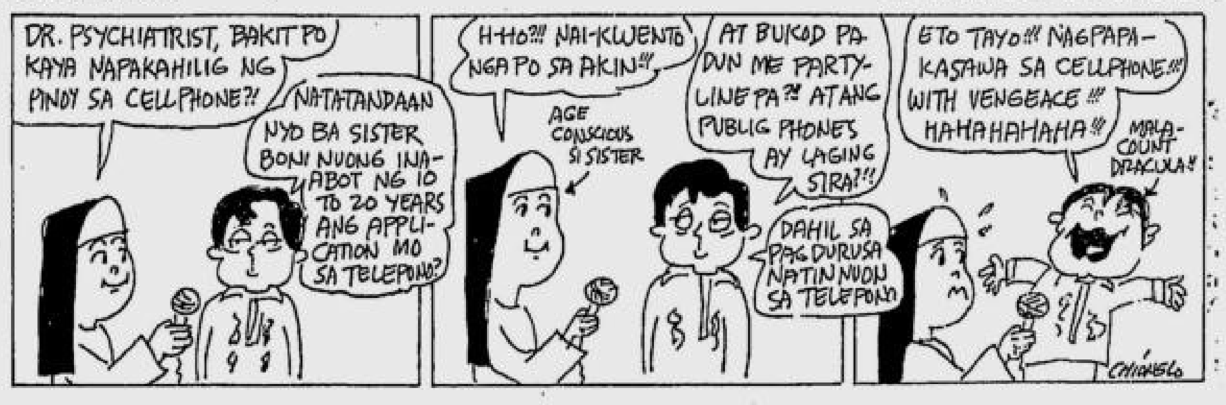
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


AAIEEE MAN-EATING SHARK!!!
HA! THAT GUY HAS PERSONALLY EATEN 22 TUNAS, 360 LOBSTERS, 932 CRABS, 1,760 MUSSELS, 2,985 FILET O' SOLES AND 11,337 SHRIMPS AND I'M THE ONE WITH THE BAD REPUTATION!?!
7-19

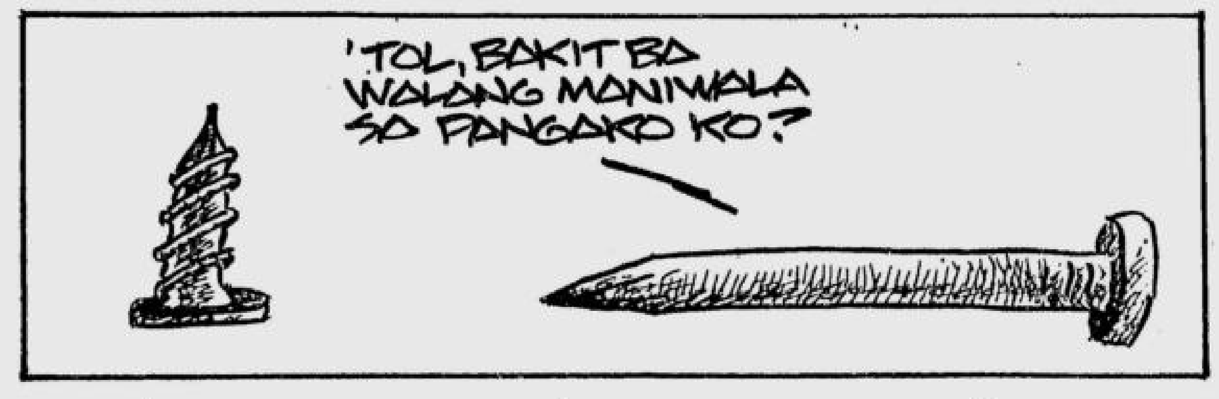
HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY SOME PEAS, TRIXIE?
I'LL TRY ANYTHING ONCE!
CHANCE BROWNE
6-28
AGAIN!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DR. PSYCHIATRIST, BAKIT PO KAYA NAPAKAHILIG NG PINOY SA CELLPHONE?!
NATATANDAAN NYO BA SISTER BONI NUONG INA-ABOT NG 10 TO 20 YEARS ANG APPLICATION MO SA TELEPONO?
H-HO?!! NAI-KWENTO NGA PO SA AKIN!!
AGE CONSCIOUS SI SISTER
AT BUKOD PA DUN ME PARTY-LINE PA?! AT ANG PUBLIC PHONES AY LAGING SIRA?!!
DAHIL SA PAGDURUSA NATIN NUON SA TELEPONO
ETO TAYO!!! NAGPAPA-KASAWA SA CELLPHONE!!! WITH VENGEACE!!! HAHAHAHAHA!!!
MALA-COUNT DRACULA!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING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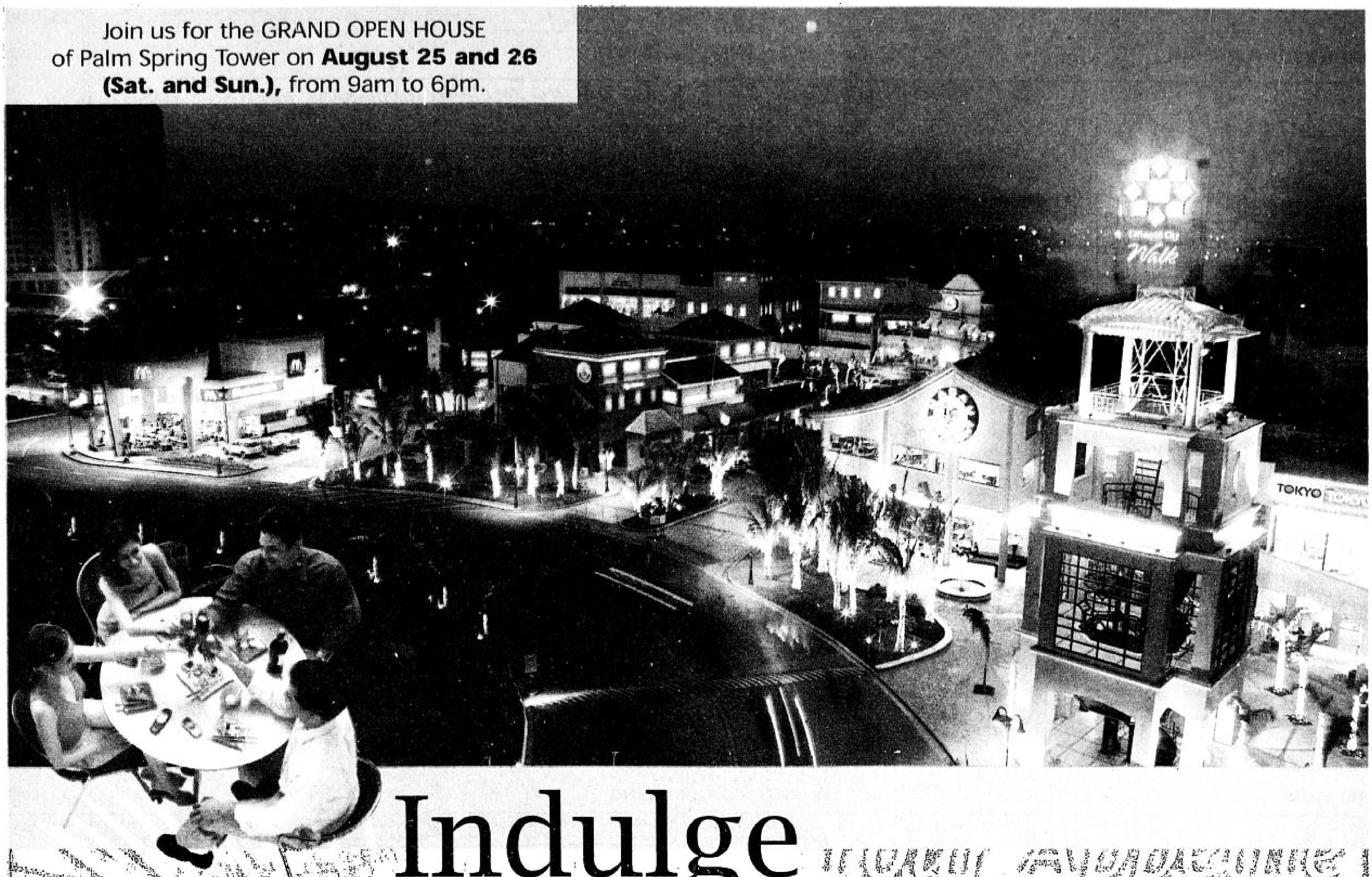
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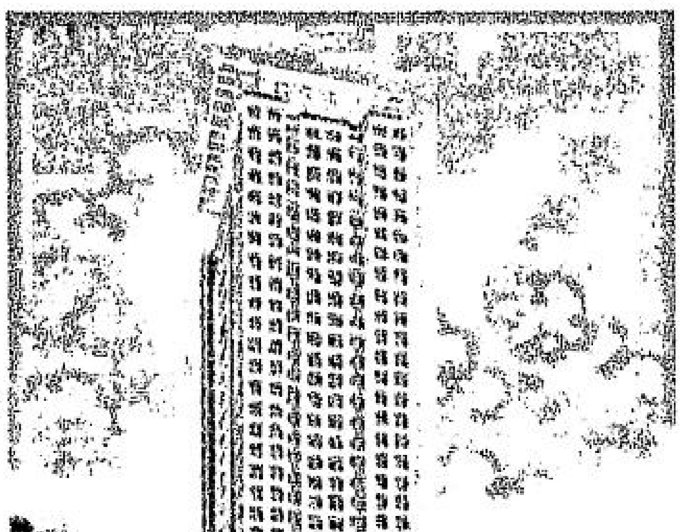

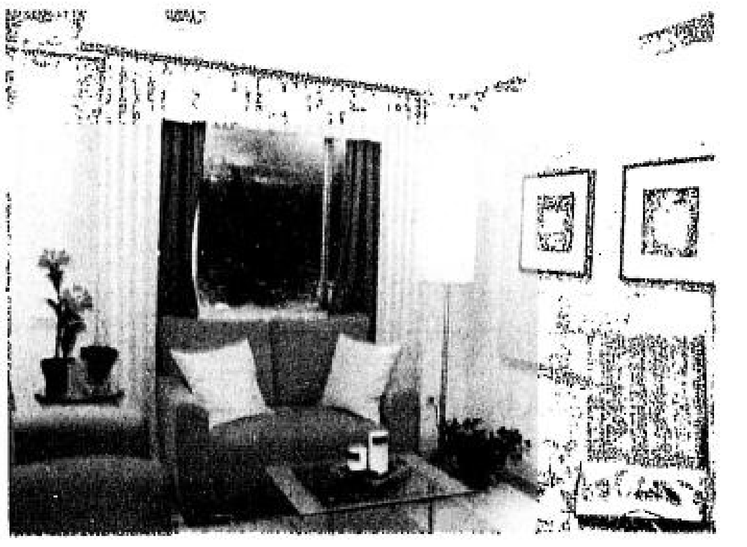

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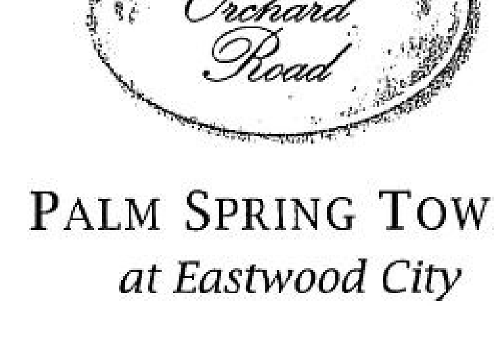
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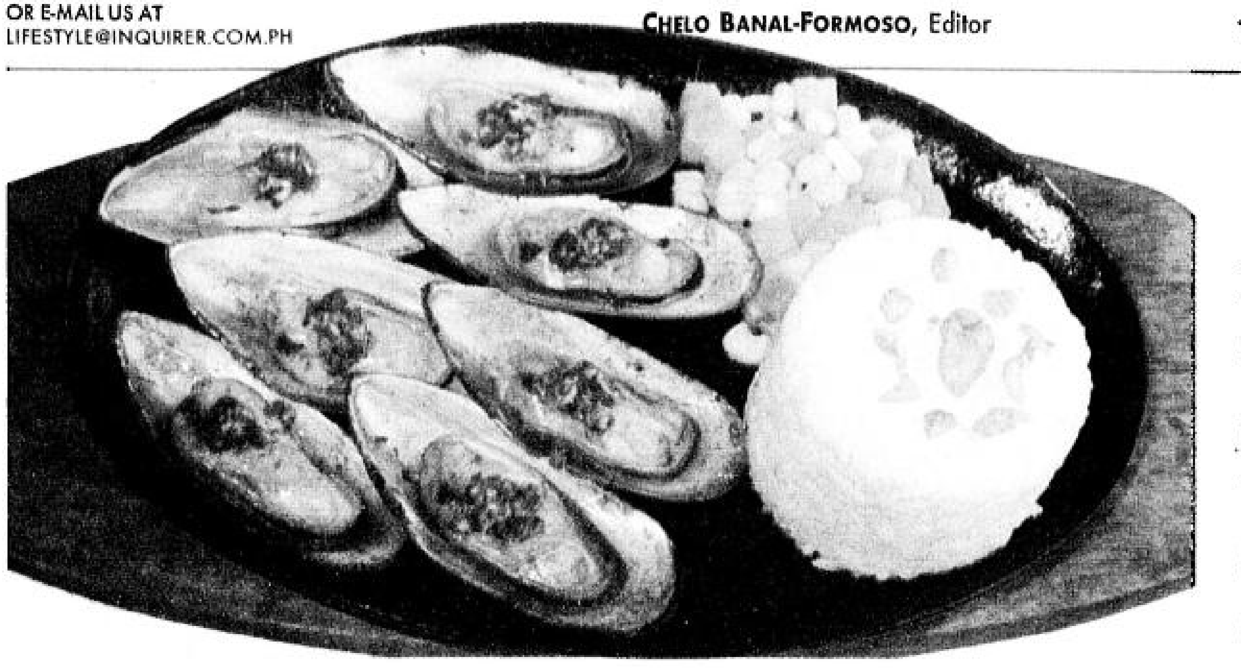

MUSSELS from New Zealand

Here you can count on an easy atmosphere, vibrant flavors and a whole lot of grilling

Sizzling siblings act

TEXT BY ROWENA C. BURGOS
PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

IN A CITY that prizes ornaments and large effects, it takes a modestly contrary brother-and-sister act to decorate their 100-seater Grills and Sizzles Steak House with framed articles on the restaurant and colorful drawings of kid diners posted on a corkboard. Nothing else in this place insists upon your attention.

That's not the only way in which chef-owner Christine and brother Cesar Cruz Jr., marketing director, go against the local grain. Quietude and ease, both rare among the city's restaurants, envelop Grills and Sizzles' simple tables, each an island in a calm sea of space. There's a crowd to match: older, well-heeled, almost startlingly low-key. They sport T-shirts, busi-

SIZZLING/ p.C2

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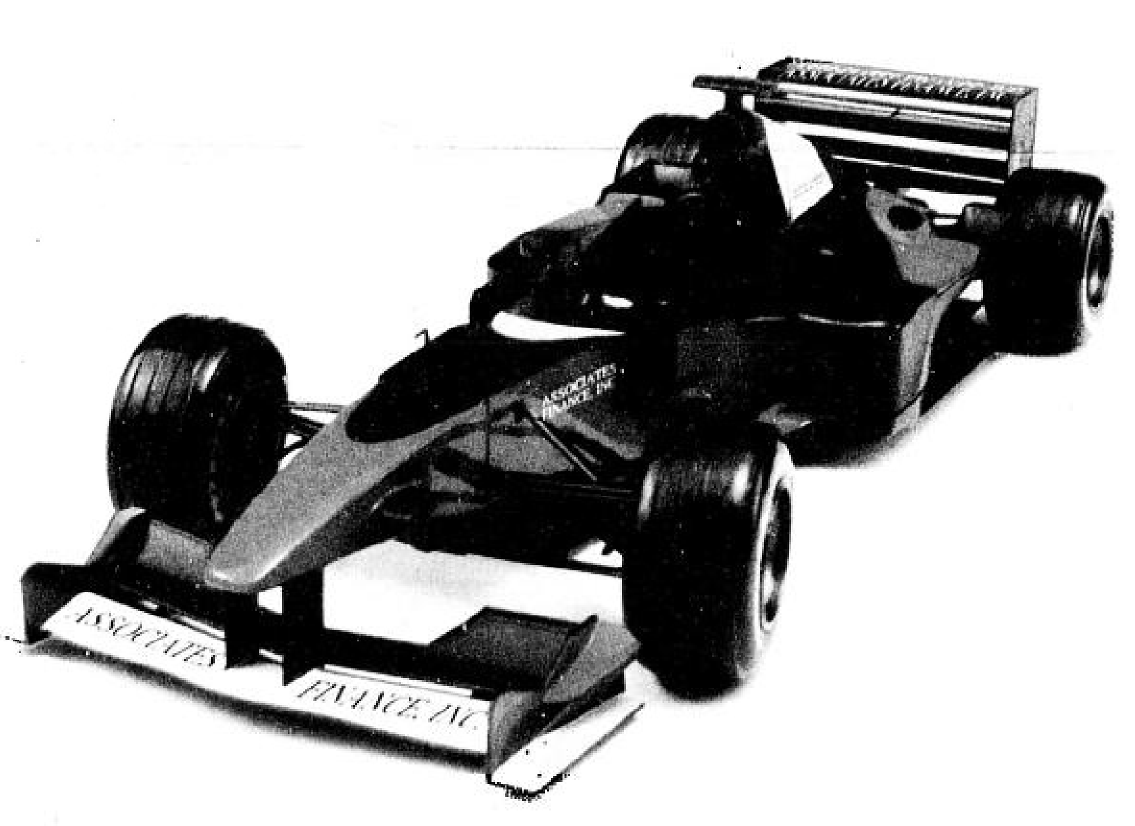
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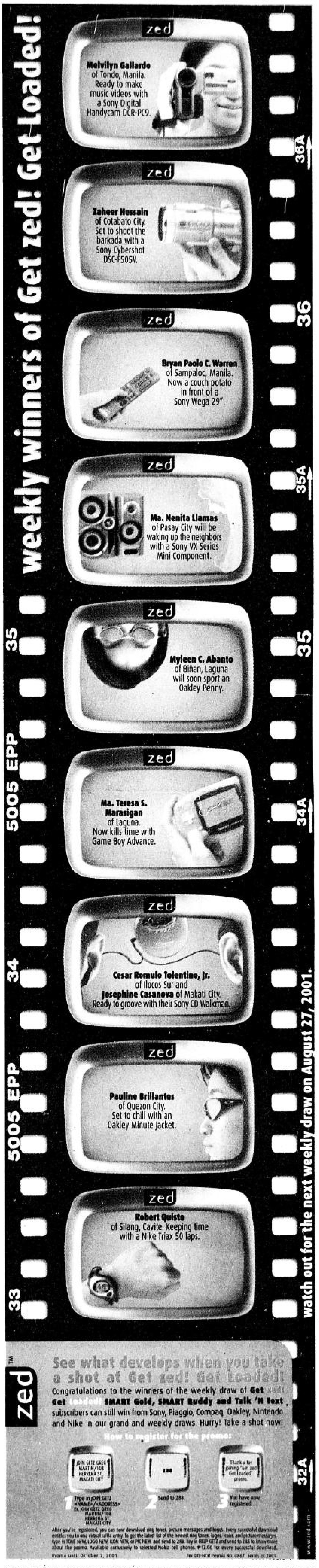
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Sizzling siblings act

(From page C1)

ness suits and the occasional *barong*—but seldom the searching expressions you find in the see-and-be-seen hot spots or high-profile venues.

The buzz here is on the plate. Chef Christine's careful, ambitious style does not make a lot of noise, but her best dishes can vibrate in the mind for days. "Our dishes revolve around Filipino basics that we hype up. We want to serve something that is satisfying but not intimidating," says Christine.

Grills and Sizzles' daily menu uses the freshest produce and Christine does her ingredients justice as seen in her compositions of precisely balanced salads such as Potato Ham Salad, Coleslaw and Caesar Salad (crisp iceberg lettuce tossed in the restaurant's traditional dressing and sprinkled with bacon bits, grated Parmesan and bacon-flavored croutons) and the flavorful Sisig topped with *chicharon* and garlic bits.

Grilled pizzas like Chunky Cheese, scattered with marinated tenderloin chunks on cream cheese sauce and garlic bits, and Barbie Chickie, sprinkled with chicken cutlets in BBQ sauce and loaded with cheese, are also offered.

The restaurant's original Oriental garlic sauce spices up the Mussels from New Zealand, Tuna Belly, Squid, Gindara and Bangus Belly.

Star dish

At Grills and Sizzles, meat always gets star billing. It's the dish around which all others are planned, the one for which wines are chosen, the one that sets the tone of a meal and given the best possible supporting cast. And Christine provides it with skillful and imaginative handling, preferential treatment and kid glove care.

"Steaks are popular food fare but quite expensive. So here at Grills and Sizzles, we try our best to offer steaks of the best quality but at affordable prices," says Cesar.

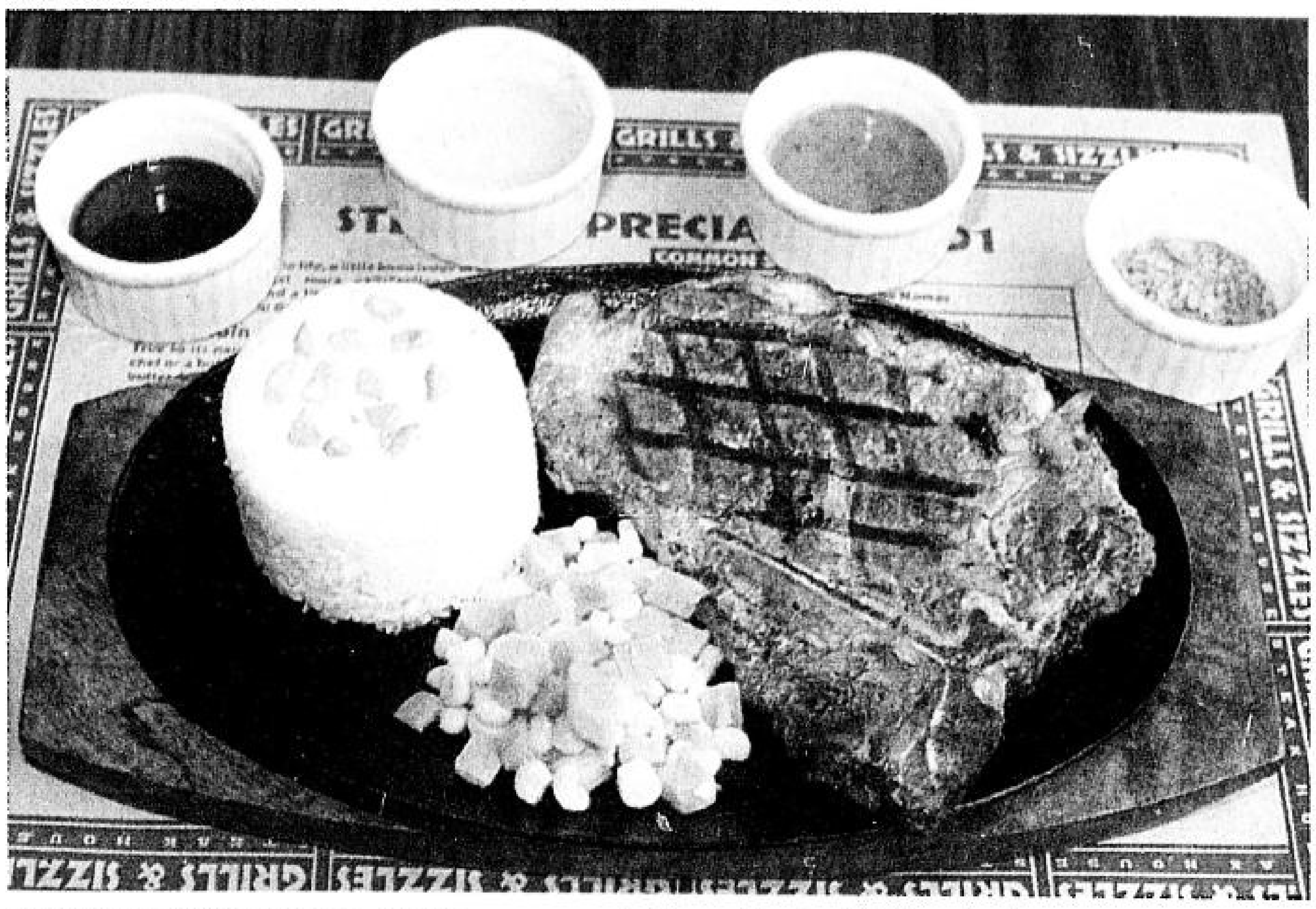
The restaurant's Grill Thrills (Tenderloin, Rib-eye, Porterhouse, Chicken Breast Fillet, Pork Chop), Flamin' Chicken (Teriyaki, Chicken Mushroom Melt, Cheesy Southwest, Chicken Caesar Sandwich) and Ribs and Tips (Pork Spareribs and Tenderloin Tips) kick the entire concept of a steak house up a notch.

AN INTERESTING CHEMISTRY. Christine and Cesar Cruz Jr.

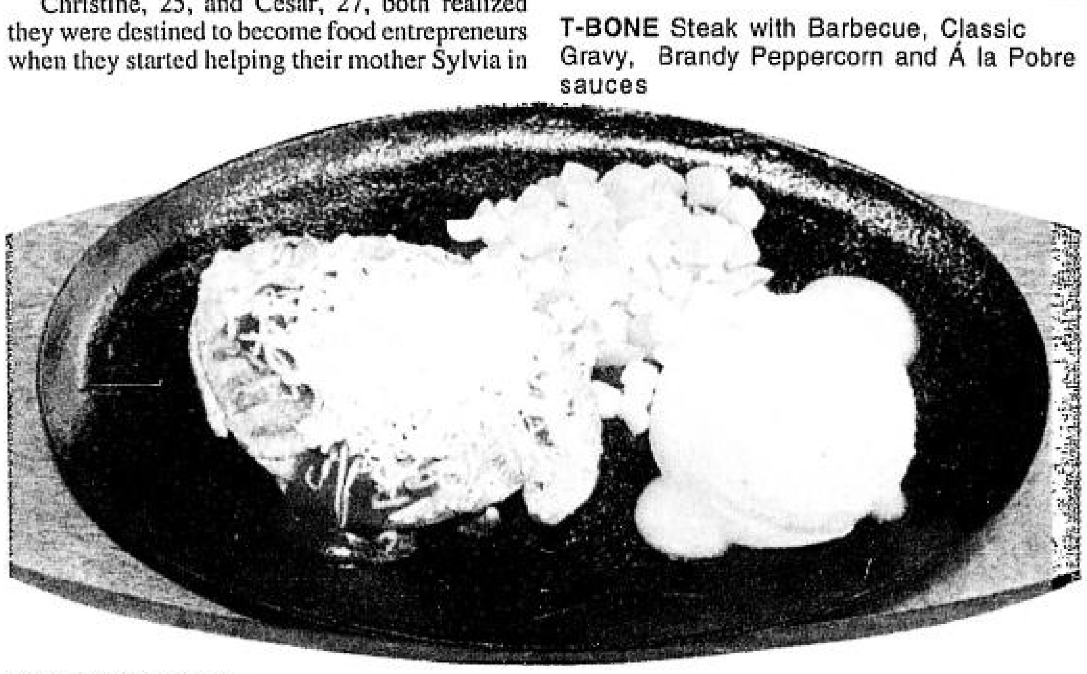
These entrées are served with soup, veggies, rice and your choice of sauces like the Classic Gravy, Á la Pobre garlic bits, Southwestern BBQ sauce and the Brandy Peppercorn Sauce. The strength of the smoke and the power of the sauce are simply awesome.

Desserts of Judy's Crepes, Flamin' Bananas, Marsh Attack, Sizzling Ice Cream, Brownie Nut Pie, Mango Crepes and Oreo Cheesecake taste just like a happy ending.

Adventurous



T-BONE Steak with Barbecue, Classic Gravy, Brandy Peppercorn and Á la Pobre sauces



CHEESY Southwest

Christine, 25, and Cesar, 27, both realized they were destined to become food entrepreneurs when they started helping their mother Sylvia in managing Country Noodles (which now has five outlets in Quezon City) at a very young age. A nutritionist, Sylvia also gave culinary lessons at home. "But even if she was preoccupied with her business, she never failed to prepare an eat-all-you-can breakfast or various flavors of pizza for us," relates Christine, the only girl in a brood of six.

After finishing HRM at St. Paul's College and taking up a three-week course on hospitality management in Australia, Christine found herself working in the kitchens of Häagen Dazs and Fashion Café. Then she and Cesar decided to open Grills and Sizzles in 1998 at 13 Shorthorn St., Toro Hills, Project 8, QC and it was an instant hit. After two years, they opened another outlet at 57 Examiner St., West Triangle, QC.

After two restaurants and innumerable hours at the grill, Christine, who's now taking her MBA at the Ateneo, and Cesar still find cooking and running a diner an adventure.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Smokehouse specialties and rock 'n roll music

THE PHENOMENON of Hard Rock Café since it first surfaced in London and subsequently flourished into a global multinational franchise has been eulogized in a song by Carol King called, well, "Hard Rock Café."

The restaurant originally served an authentic American cuisine in London and featured heavy rock music for ambience until it was transformed into a theme restaurant revolving around rock 'n roll. This explains why the walls of every Hard Rock Café in 92 countries are adorned with framed memorabilia from the world of rock music on both sides of the Atlantic.

BARBECUE Pork Ribs and Chicken Barbecue marinated in Heinz Tomato Catsup

Since it opened in Makati in 1995, the two-level restaurant has become a dining destination among many Filipinos who want to have a taste of American cuisine and American music. Hard Rock Café even goes farther in its homage to rock 'n roll. Besides the ubiquitous memorabilia that once belonged to rock stars as varied as '50s icons Chuck Berry and Elvis Presley, '70s idols like The Beatles and the Rolling Stones and contemporary pop stars Michael Jackson and Madonna, it also hosts concerts and album launchings of local recording artists like Martin Nievera, Regine Velasquez, Side A, Freestyle and promo showcases of visiting foreign pop acts. After dinner, the place is transformed into a dance hall with a band playing a range of dance tunes.

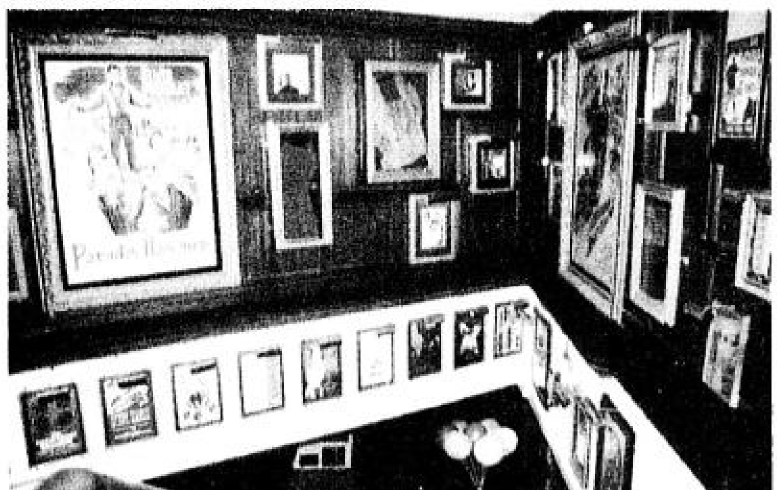
But what makes Hard Rock Café a byword among its loyal clientele is the yummy dishes they find in the menu. More than that, many inveterate diners have discovered the restaurant's buffet at lunchtime, Monday to Saturday. At P250+ per person, there is a wide variety of dishes to choose from. It has become such a big hit that on certain days, prior reservations for a seat at the 350-seater restaurant may be necessary.

Teo Lai Heng, the restaurant's executive chef who comes from Singapore, insists on using only the best ingredients so the local Hard Rock Café can be at par with the best around the world.

Heinz is the secret ingredient of Hard Rock's tasty smokehouse specialties that are marinated in it before they are cooked and served piping hot to the customer. Gourmets have acclaimed Heinz tomato ketchup as the best in the world. H.J. Heinz Company produces more than a billion ounces of Heinz ketchup a year, and some of it has found its way to Manila, particularly at Hard Rock Café.

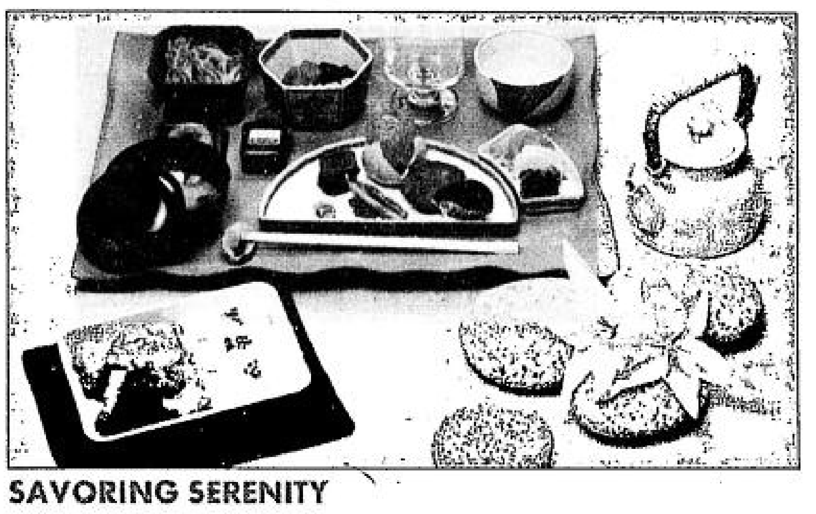
With its hefty servings, the restaurant has been attracting a good mix of clientele, from Makati's yuppies to expats, from students who scrimp on their allowances for a regular jaunt at the restaurant to entire families.

BEEF and Chicken Fajita



FRAMED memorabilia from the world of rock music

MUSIC is provided nightly by live band performers.



SAVORING SERENITY

An art both visual and edible, the kaiseki meal is served on the Mabuhay Class on all Philippine Airlines flights between Japan and Philippines beginning this month. A typical menu selection consists of (clockwise from top left) soba (kobachi), boilled dish (nimono), tea (chawan), pickled dish (konomono), appetizer (zensai) and miso soup, plus the main dish (dainomono) in foreground, served on specially designed tray, bowl, dish and utensil sets.

Flavors of Vietnam

DINING OUT

DUSIT Hotel's chef Dave Laureano of Thien Duong Vietnamese Restaurant whips up additions to the menu. For appetizers, there are Cua Nuong Lui (crab roll), Muc Don Thit (squid stuffed with pork), and Cang Cua Chin (deep-fried crab claws wrapped in minced prawn and pork); for meat and poultry, Ga Xao Hot Dieu (stir-fried chicken with mango and cashew nuts), Thit Heo Kho Nuoc Dua (pork stew with coconut juice) and Bun Thit Heo Nuong (grilled pork with rice vermicelli); for seafood, Ca Mu Chin Voi Gung (fried seabass with ginger sauce) or Tom Cang Kho (spicy prawns); and for dessert, Banh Phu The (husband and wife cakes) or Banh Goi (wrapped rice cakes). As an added treat, guests are given complimentary bowls of fresh assorted vegetables accompanied by pickles. Call 867-3333, local 3354.

T.G.I.FRIDAY'S Glorietta and Alabang branches offer delicious appetizers on the house. When diners present their Ayala Discount Card Plus, they can feast on the featured dish for the day. You'll also earn double points in your Ayala Discount Card Plus. Visit T.G.I.Friday's branches in Ortigas, Malate, Quezon City and the Brickroad strip of Sta. Lucia East.

MANILA GALLERIA Suites offers sumptuous Asian foods until Sept. 1, at the Raphael Café-Restaurant. A wide array of stir-fried selections of Kempinski Fillet Steak with Bernaise, Pork Pojarsky with Gravy and Crepes with Crab Stew Dill are offered. There's also Tandoori Marinated Chicken Skewer and Stuffed Quail with Peanut Sauce. Cap off these choices with desserts like Banana/Pineapple Fritters, Bubur Chacha and Golden Ball. Call 633-7111, local 7416 or 7440.

CASA ARMAS celebrates its Wine and Cheese Festival this August, featuring a platter of assorted Spanish cheese and the finest selection of wines from the Rioja province of Spain. Casa Armas presents a 10-percent discount on all wine bottles for every order of its special Tabla de Quezo. Casa Armas is at 132 Jupiter St., Bel Air Village, Makati City. Call 897-3605/3542.

FOOD ODYSSEY, now open at the 11/F of LKG Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, has outlets serving a variety of Filipino and international cuisine which include Lola's Kitchen, CityBites, New York Café, Jollibee, Jamaican Patties, O'Bento, Gai Xia by Emer's, Flavours X-press, Dunkin Donuts, Subway and Jiaozi Dimsum. There are meals to suit every appetite and budget—for as low as P30 to as high as P150 or somewhere in between. Food Odyssey also hosts movie nights every Thursday and band nights every Friday. It is open from 7 a.m.-10 p.m., Mondays to Fridays, and 7 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturdays.

PADI'S MINDAVE marks this month with a *sisig* festival. Special discounts are given on all orders of the Original Padi's Sisig, Crispy Sisig, the Mindave Sisig and the Flaming Tuna Sisig. Coming soon are Sizzling Seafood Sisig, Litid Sisig and Squid Sisig. Padi's Mindave is on Mindanao Avenue, QC. Call 453-0080, 414-4930 to 34 or 925-3117.

LIGHT BISTRO offers a blend of continental cuisine and Filipino flavors. House specialties include Warm Spinach Salad, Crispy Chicken Fingers, Spicy Chicken with Tomato-Caper Sauce Pasta, Roast Herbed Chicken with Mushroom Sauce, Crispy Tilapia with Mushroom Adobado and Grilled Country Style Ribs with Garlic Kangkong. Light Bistro is located at 223 Katipunan Avenue, QC. Call 421-0640.

THE SEARCH for the Pasta King is ongoing at **Seven Suites'** Bistro Amore. Male diners are challenged to an eat-all-you-can-pasta offering, where their servings will be weighed. On Aug. 31, the top 20 eaters will be invited for a pasta showdown. Prizes include vacation packages and special treats from the Cravings Group. Bistro Amore features buffet dinners from Tuesdays to Sundays and brunch on Saturdays and Sundays. Seven Suites is located on Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City. Call 677-5401 to 02.

NUTRITION QUIZ BEE

DUNKIN' Donuts, makers of donuts fortified with iodine, campaigns for the eradication of malnutrition by supporting the 1st National Nutrition Quiz Bee which was recently held at the Kachina Function Room at the Century Park Hotel, Manila. There were two divisions—elementary, for students in grades five and six, and high school, for junior and senior students from private and public schools nationwide. Photo shows Dunkin' Donuts Mascot "Munchy" with all the regional/division winners and Juan Blase Mejica, executive director of Tulong Dukha Foundation Inc.

Quiz Tilt 2001

An amateur's fumblings

THE MAD TEA PARTY

Clinton Palanca

THE OTHER day, I got a call from a former student of mine, inviting me to escort her to a party. This was the batch of students upon which I had inflicted Camus, Gide and Baudrillard, mainly because these were what I happened to be reading at the time.

I think universities should be very certain about what they want to achieve: To produce responsible, capable citizens; or to open minds and awaken hungers. To the former should be given classic stories and Anglo-American philosophy, which, with its fixation on language theory, is as fascinating and inconsequential as a crossword puzzle. European philosophy, on the other hand, deals with the meaning of life, and has as its canon appealingly named books such as "Nausea" (recommended for reading on cruise-ships and on turbo-prop planes).

For most of my students, the questions of existentialism were as abstract as Archimedes' problem of displacement, and they responded accordingly with excruciatingly correct answers; these students usually sat in the front row and were exponents of the method of preparing for an exam by highlighting textbooks with fluorescent markers. Then there were the students who sat at the very back, dressed in black, and handed in reaction papers that began with "Life sucks..."

Surprisingly, it was a few of the students who sat in the middle who understood the questions; they were the ones who furrowed their brows as though they didn't understand: and it is with this bewilderment that real philosophy begins. I don't know what became of these students; I suppose most of them went on to lead normal lives and pursue practical careers. A few, though, plunged into living with destructive abandon or became neurotic and depressed. I blame Baudelaire. If I ever teach freshmen again, I shall stick with "The Little Prince."

I knew that this student had entered our city's equivalent of the bohemian underworld, a comparable demi-monde of beautiful people mingling with impoverished dreamers; absinthe and opium replaced with hallucinogens and seratonin stimulants. Despite my ties with the writing community, I had little contact with this boozy bunch. Our idea of a fun evening was coffee and ice cream, a macaroon if we were feeling rakish, and fascist marching songs and Gilbert and Sullivan operettas.

So I was completely unprepared for the scene of Dionysian abandon: half-naked men, couples cavorting on futons, empty vodka bottles lined up on the table and a thumping beat on the stereo. I was introduced around and then left on a couch to observe the scene with anthropological detachment. I made desultory conversation with a few people who looked appropriately spectral in the candlelight flicker. "So what do you do?"

"I'm a writer," I said; it was an answer I rarely gave, especially at singles bars, where girls tend to say "Oh!" and go off to chat with the corporate CEO at the next table. Here, though, I suddenly found myself in another room with one of the half-naked men, who began reading his poetry for me, apologizing self-consciously before every poem. Despite my terrible reputation at workshops for telling would-be writers to shift to gardening instead and my rowdy behavior at Sanctum when people read non-poems, an amateur's attempts at poetry are something I appreciate.

Gemino Abad is far more cranky at workshops than anyone else, but he has mastered the art of insulting people's work in a kindly, avuncular way. I remember him smiling broadly and proclaiming, with the informative air of a museum curator: "This is not a poem." The rambling thoughts that this half-naked man had scribbled were not a poem. But they were real, honest and true. If he began down the path of criticism, comparison, reading, rewriting, mentorship and discipline he would have soon learned sophistication, clever metaphors, allusive references, puns; further down the road is poetic voice and an underlying philosophy.

Not everyone has to go through the usual route that culminates in Carlos Palanca Literature awards and a book published by Anvil (my last royalty check for my novel was for about P2,000, which means I get paid something like P0.00037 per word for my fiction, from which I donate 30 percent to charity). This is the reason I am not encouraging young people who say they want to become a professional writer.

Honesty and passion

Which brings us to amateurs. There are those who hesitate to put pen to paper because they know that what will emerge will be, inevitably, an amateur's fumbling. There are those who get around this by writing non-poems: clever lines calculated to provoke shock or laughter. These are excellent tactics for stand-up comedians and subway lunatics; but they are worth less than a 14-year-old's earnest poem of rhyming couplets.

An amateur produces amateur's work; I know this because I have been dabbling with photography, trying to gain an amateur's satisfaction without enrolling in a course or apprenticing with a master. People are always hesitant to cook for me because of my job as chef and food critic, and they await my verdict like a criminal in the dock. (I lie through my teeth.) But even more disheartening are those who hesitate to pick up a pan and spatula because they see chefs on television with huge stainless-steel kitchens, chopping onions at superhuman speed, flipping crepes with one hand while deboning a pigeon with the other.

A little-known fact about chefs is that they rarely eat what they cook. After a night of churning out delicate, subtle masterpieces of taste, they usually have a simple supper before going to bed. When I was actively manning the kitchen as chef, I lived on various permutations of instant noodles and tinned soup. I'm not saying that professional cooks, or writers or artists, don't love their work. They do; especially when they remember their roots. Ask writers or artists or performers about the heady rush of their first byline, the first painting they sold, the applause of an opening night. Envy the amateur his passion and honesty; pity the master who has lost his love for his work.

Teaching was my great failure: I was an eager amateur who comes up against what everyone who wants to try something new dreads: the barbed-wire fence of a lack of talent, and the realization that one will always be an amateur. I resigned before they could fire me; unlike a disgruntled writer who can still write diary entries, I will never stand before a class again. My exit, tail between my legs, from academe, was a defining moment that pointed out a rather simple fact: some things you're good at; at most other things, you'll be either mediocre or catastrophically bad. But I taught with honesty and passion; and after they graduated, I hit on all my favorite female students.

In my life so far, I have been an amateur violinist, wood-carver, furniture-maker, stage actor, interior designer, acrylic painter, photographer and some that are too embarrassing to mention. I still consider myself an amateur cook and writer. One day I hope to discover what I'm really good at; I just hope it's not something like poultry insemination or exhibitionism.

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It is disheartening that there are people who hesitate to pick up a pan and spatula because they see chefs on television with huge stainless-steel kitchens, chopping onions at superhuman speed

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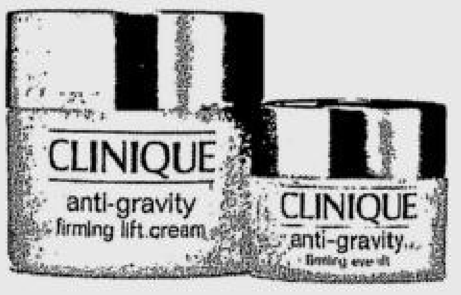

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2626, Series of 2001.

Chef Marcus holds court in this sensitive, floating world of taste at the Enterprise Building on Paseo de Roxas

CAMOMILE rice

ROSEMARY-GRILLED lobster with garlic Kenya beans and lobster hollandaise

Aqua anew

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

THE ANNOUNCEMENT of new items on the menu draws me as surely as a new place, because these in effect renew and revitalize the restaurant. Chef Marcus Gfeller says he puts in a new dish weekly as a special, but also experiments with others "to make life exciting" for him and his clientele.

The tasting menu (*menu degustation*) he prepared for us contained items on the regular menu, which had not been there in the year 2000, the last time John Silva, Jonathan Best and I were there together.

Here is Marcus' serendipitous selection: Crisp chicken pot stickers (à la *siomai*; à la *gyoza*; à la *samosa*; à la *piroshki*) with a spiced teriyaki dip, thus partaking of the sweet range of Japanese cuisine.

Then a warm white asparagus salad (the Bavarian asparagus was in season), with paprika-cured smoked salmon. We all enjoyed it thoroughly, but sent word to Marcus in some alarm: The portions should not be so large, or else we would never make it through the meal.

Nobody complained, however, about the wonderful Three Onion Cream Soup of melted leeks, Vidalia onion fondue and chives—and a tiny square of fried *foie gras* in the middle of the cream-colored lake. It was everyone's favorite, and our words tumbled out in excitement as we tried (we all write about food) to describe it. Don't mind us: Go try it for yourself.

White Asparagus Risotto came next—a tiny, tasting portion (ahhhh!) of rice with bits of asparagus, grilled Parma ham and truffle oil.

Too good, too irresistible

Three seafood dishes then came to the table at one time—a wilderness of savors: Rosemary-grilled lobster with garlic Kenya beans and lobster hollandaise: a mixed seafood curry with bass, salmon, snapper, scallops and prawns in Thai coconut curry and with camomile rice; and a glazed salmon fillet with Moroccan spices, cabbage confit and vegetable Basmati.

By that time, despite efforts to just taste, not really eat, we were flagging (too many good, irresistible tastes). But not before Jonathan and John pronounced the seafood curry their favorite, and I raved about the rosemary-grilled lobster—totally fresh, grilled to the exact point at which it still melded the qualities of sashimi with those of grilled lobster.

WHITE asparagus salad with paprika cured smoked salmon

It reminded us all of an old Chef Marcus specialty: Live lobster picked from a tank and done three ways: the head and shell as a bisque: same of the flesh as crunchy, exquisite sashimi; the rest grilled and served with lemon butter sauce, or thermidore, or cooked in tarragon, as one wished.

BRAISED pork knuckle stuffed with *chorizo de* Bilbao, mushrooms and beef shank.

But we were not through. The sole meat dish was a braised pork knuckle stuffed with *chorizo* de Bilbao, mushrooms and beef shank, thus sharing the qualities and memories of *embutido*, *pata tim*, *humba*, *pamplina*, etc.—a multitude of references. The slivers we tasted were so good that we vowed to return to have just that one dish—maybe.

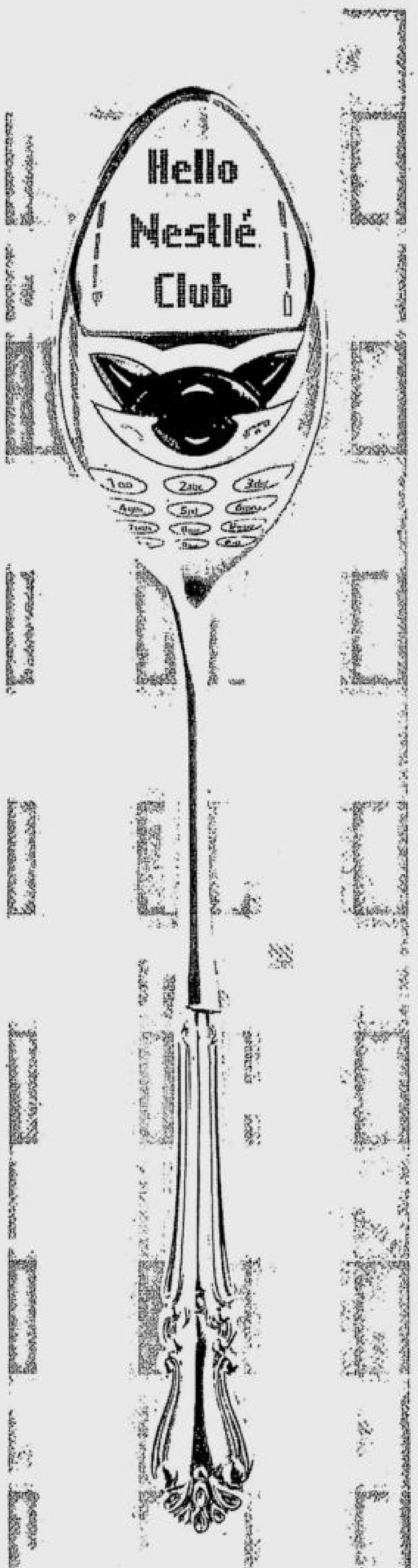
Dessert chef Mara then laid before us four specialties: An apple *Financiere* tart with Calvados caramel sauce and sour cream gelato; a mango *galette*, a glazed tart with macadamia *croquant* ice cream; a brioche bread pudding with caramelized bananas and pistachio ice cream; and an orange almond flourless cake with chocolate glaze and vanilla bean ice cream.

We gloried in a sensitive, floating world of taste, never questioning Chef Marcus' choices, or asking to see the regular menu.

The superbly unobtrusive staff reminded us, however, that there are vegetarian and signature menus, other soups (e.g. a four-mushroom *velouté* with white truffle oil); sandwiches, pastas, meats and fresh Tasmanian oysters.

The glass-themed restaurant with its glass walls and accessories, the Lino Severino paintings on the wall, and a view of Ninoy Aquino's statue below, was filled with smart people from the Enterprise Building, and seemed not to have known financial crisis. But it had, Marcus said, along with all the others during Edsa II and III, although it was a favorite spot for viewing the action on Ayala avenue.

It is, however, recovering happily, for which we are glad and grateful.



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